

ICRC tells Israel to improve detention conditions

GENEVA (AP) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) urged Israel Tuesday to improve the treatment of detainees under interrogation in Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories. A spokeswoman said Israel failed to respond to recommendations for improvement made last year and consequently was given an updated ICRC report on the situation, with some new recommendations, on Tuesday. Virtually all of the detainees in question are Palestinians, said the ICRC spokeswoman, Karen Saddler. In a statement, the Swiss humanitarian agency asked Israel to pay special attention to the detainees' treatment and urged the authorities to implement the measures suggested earlier. Details of the report and the recommendations were not published. The ICRC normally refrains from public criticism but has repeatedly singled out Israel for practices deemed to violate international humanitarian law. ICRC delegates regularly visit detainees in "investigation sections" in Israel and the occupied territories under its mission set out in the 1949 Geneva conventions.

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Baker sees possibility of peace talks

LONDON (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Tuesday he now sees the possibility of "direct, bilateral negotiations" to resolve the Middle East conflict.

Mr. Baker, speaking at a news conference as he prepares for another round of Middle East diplomacy, said differences remain over the setting up of long-sought Middle East peace talks. "There are plenty of hurdles. We're not there by a long shot," Mr. Baker said.

Mr. Baker said Syria had accepted the idea that a United Nations observer at an Arab-Israeli peace conference would have no speaking rights.

Asked whether Syria had given up its demand for a U.N. presence at a peace conference, Mr. Baker said:

"They would still like to have a silent United Nations presence."

Mr. Baker, attending the Group of Seven summit in London with President George Bush, travels Thursday to Syria, first stop on his fifth Middle East peace mission since the end of the Gulf war. We also plan to visit Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Syria had previously insisted on having a "significant role" for the U.N., while Israel has rejected any form of U.N. presence because it views the world body as biased against it.

Mr. Baker's statement provided the first confirmation that Syria, in a letter from President Hafez Al Assad to Mr. Bush last weekend, had accepted the U.S. proposal on a silent U.N. role.

Previous statements from Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker praised Mr. Assad's reply in general terms without going into detail.

Mr. Baker said Mr. Assad's letter had created a "real possibility of bringing about direct bilateral negotiations between Israel and Syria."

He repeated that the letter contained some Syrian suggestions but they did not appear to be conditions. But he cautioned that there were still many problems ahead.

An Israeli official said Israel could drop its opposition to a token U.N. role in Middle East peace talks if that was the only obstacle to direct negotiations with Syria.

"Maybe we could see also something like an evolution in the Israeli official position on this very subject during the short visit by Mr. Baker," the Israeli official said.

Only the previous day Mr. Shamir's office issued a statement rejecting even a token U.N. presence or a reconvening of the U.S.-Soviet-sponsored Middle East peace conference.

In an indication of the obstacles facing any Israeli-Syrian talks, Ambassador to Washington Zalman Shoval told Israeli Radio that the government ruled out the return of the occupied Golan Heights sought by Damascus.

"The Golan Heights is something which according to Israel's view is not negotiable," he said. Syria still wants a silent United Nations observer at the talks.

Mr. Baker said he intends to discuss Mr. Assad's views "in great depth and in great detail with the leadership of Israel" when he visits in the next several days.

President Bush said Monday that Syria's acceptance of peace negotiations is a "breakthrough" that will test Israel's interest in peacemaking.

Mr. Bush said: "We've learned that you want to go into all the detail so you can't have some hang-up. But clearly it is a coming-forward by President Assad that we view as very, very positive."

He said it was too soon to say how Israel would respond to Syria's action.

"One of their concerns has been that Syria hasn't been coming forward. Now, if they are

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Deputies consult each other before and during breaks in Tuesday's session for the Lower House of Parliament (photos by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Prospects brighten for Masri government Majority of 13-seat Constitution Bloc Blocs, deputies voice their members expected to vote in favour views on government policy

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government of Prime Minister Taher Masri Tuesday appeared to be headed for winning a vote of confidence from the Lower House of Parliament as the first day of confidence session on the House floor drew to a close with definite indications that most members of the newly-formed Constitution Bloc had decided to endorse the government.

The Muslim Brotherhood movement, with 23 solid votes, reiterated its decision to withhold confidence from Mr. Masri's government. The Constitution Bloc, which until late Monday held the key to the government's success

or failure, is expected to tip the scales in favour of the government when the vote is taken late today or tomorrow.

In the first day of the confidence session, 16 speakers, including independents and representatives of parliamentary blocs, read out their responses to the government's policy statement as hundreds of citizens filled the House galleries.

Members of the Constitution Bloc, led by Irbid Deputy Thaqan Hindawi, were absent during the first hour of the House session. It was later confirmed that the bloc had met with His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Court.

A senior member of the bloc, who confirmed the meeting, denied that any pressure was exercised on the group and said the subject of confidence was not discussed during that meeting.

The positive tilt in the bloc's attitude towards Mr. Masri and his government, the sources revealed, had already started on Monday evening when the bloc met with the premier and frankly exchanged views "over the make-up and policies of his government."

Observers thought Monday the fate of Mr. Masri's government hung in the balance as the Constitution Bloc was still undecided over which way its voters would go in the confidence session. As the first few hours of Tuesday's session passed it became increasingly evident that a more concrete and favourable position

was being formulated among the bloc's members.

Several meetings were held during the course of the day between members of the bloc led by Mr. Hindawi on the one hand and the premier on the other.

In a speech delivered on its behalf by Irbid Deputy Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, the bloc drew comparison between Mr. Masri's comments as deputy during the confidence session on Mr. Mudar Badran's government in December 1989 and those contained in the government policy statement delivered by the premier last Thursday.

The bloc, formed Sunday, emerged as the power-broker in

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AMMAN (J.T.) — Following are the main speeches delivered by deputies in the Lower House of Parliament Tuesday.

While some of the deputies spoke on behalf of their respective blocs, others presented their individual positions on the policy statement given to the House by Prime Minister Taher Masri on Thursday.

The House session continues today and the vote of confidence in government is expected to be taken late today or tomorrow.

Muslim Brotherhood

The Muslim Brotherhood movement accused the government of giving in to U.S.-led Middle East peace efforts and seeking to crush Islamic principles.

The 24-member bloc, the largest group in the Lower House, urged deputies to topple the government.

"We believe this government has come for two basic things," said Deputy Ahmad Qteish Al Azaideh, the bloc's spokesman.

"These two things, he said, were: 'To take steps towards the so-called peaceful solution and the settlement of the Palestinian problem in a way that contradicts our long-held views, and to work towards dwarfing the Islamic awakening in Jordan.'

The Brotherhood had cooperated with the Badran government in a positive manner and granted it a vote of confidence without participating in that government.

he said. Giving the vote of confidence to the Badran government and withholding it from the Masri government are both aspects of exercising democracy on the part of the Brotherhood, Mr. Azaideh said.

Mr. Azaideh said that his group would not give the new government a vote of confidence because "of its policies on the national and foreign levels and because its members are not qualified to deal effectively with urgent matters on both fronts."

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G-7 toughens anti-Iraq stand, endorses U.S. Mideast plan Summit calls on Israel to stop settlement and urges Arabs to end boycott of Israel

LONDON (Agencies) — Leaders of the seven richest democracies Tuesday continued a united stand against Iraq and endorsed the U.S. peace initiative for the Middle East.

The leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, meeting in Lancaster House for a second day of talks, approved summit statements on political issues and arms control.

The leaders urged Israel to freeze a Jewish settlement drive in the occupied territories and Arab states to suspend their economic boycott against Israel.

A draft of the Group of Seven (G-7) political communique, two days before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker launches a new Middle East peace mission,

said both sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict should take goodwill confidence-building measures.

"In that connection we believe that the Arab boycott should be suspended, as should the Israeli policy of building settlements in the occupied territories," the London summit communique said.

The statement by the seven was clearly intended to strengthen Mr. Baker's hand in his forthcoming mission.

But it was certain to be greeted with more nervousness by Israel, already bracing for heavy U.S. pressure to make concessions when Mr. Baker arrives there Sunday.

His first stop will be Syria Thursday, followed by Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Mr.

Baker made four trips since the end of the Gulf war in February, the most recent in May.

Mr. Baker decided to embark on a fifth mission after Syria unexpectedly agreed to U.S. compromise proposals on arrangements for an Arab-Israeli peace conference.

President George Bush hailed as a "breakthrough" Syria's response to his ideas on the role of the United Nations and the duration of such a conference.

Mr. Baker said Sunday the Syrian response had moved Damascus "further than they have been willing to move in any peace process effort that I'm aware of before."

But it left Israel's hardline

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No accord on joint force for Kuwait

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Foreign ministers from Kuwait and seven Arab allies failed to agree Tuesday on a joint military force to be deployed in the emirate.

Ministers said no joint force would be sent to Kuwait or the Gulf region but individual countries could seek military help from their allies in times of crisis.

Despite the failure to set up a force, all eight ministers said they were satisfied with the results of their discussions.

"We are fully satisfied that we have come to a final agreement on security arrangements," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said.

Asked if any troops from outside the Gulf would be sent to the region, Mr. Sharaa said: "It is not necessary for the force to be deployed in the region, troops would be sent when needed."

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah also indicated that the group of foreign ministers from six Gulf Arab states, Egypt and Syria were opposed to any Iranian role in a Gulf security arrangement.

The ministers said they agreed to continue with the agreement reached in Damascus in March, but will meet again in Cairo in September to discuss details.

Sheikh Salem's comments came at the end of a two-day meeting of the foreign ministers to discuss security arrangements for the Gulf.

Their final declaration reiterated support for the Damascus declaration but gave no specific details on how it would be implemented.

Asked if Iran would play a role in Gulf security arrangements, Sheikh Salem said, "Iran is an Islamic neighbour, but the Damascus declaration is an Arab matter."

Egypt had openly opposed any Iranian involvement. The ministers made a great show of unity at the end of the conference. Sheikh Salem held hands with his Egyptian counterpart, Amr Musa, on the way to the limousines that whisked them to the airport.

Iraq formally asks for Arab inspection of nuclear facilities

CAIRO (Agencies) — Iraq officially asked the Arab League Tuesday to send inspectors to check claims by the United States that Iraq is hiding its full nuclear capabilities.

Nabil Najm, Iraq's representative to the 21-member Cairo-based organisation, told reporters that Baghdad would settle for an Egyptian inspection commission if one representing all the Arabs cannot be formed.

"Iraq will give all the facilities to the Arab or Egyptian commission and will open all its facilities to show the truth of the aggressive intentions against Iraq," Mr. Najm said.

He spoke with reporters after giving Esmat Abdul Meguid, the league's secretary-general, a message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer requesting the investigation.

Mr. Abdul Meguid later told reporters that the Arab League was concerned about the safety of Iraq and wanted to avoid any

attack on it. He said that Monday he sent to Arab states an invitation to attend an emergency Arab League Council meeting at Iraq's request but that he has not received any answers yet.

Mr. Najm said that Iraq "wants to make clear the scope of the American campaign which aims at threatening Iraq and attacking it."

He said that Iraq gave the United Nations' investigating team in Baghdad all the help requested of it. He also said that Iraq's nuclear facilities are for peaceful purposes.

The United Nations has given Iraq until July 25 to disclose all its nuclear capabilities, as required by the ceasefire that ended the Gulf war, or face serious consequences. The United States has threatened military action against nuclear sites in Iraq but says an attack is not imminent.

Kuwait's foreign minister, speaking at the end of a conference on Gulf security Tuesday,

rejected Iraq's call. Sheikh Salem Al Sabah told reporters Iraq had no respect for the Arab League when it called on Baghdad to withdraw from Kuwait in August 1990, but now it is seeking protection.

Sudan denounced the U.N. Security Council for ignoring Israel's nuclear capabilities while seeking to destroy Iraq's.

Tigani Adam Tahir, a member of the ruling 13-man junta, urged Arabs to respond to the Iraqi request for an emergency Arab League meeting.

"It is erroneous that the United Nations Security Council should turn a blind eye on the growing Israeli nuclear capabilities while at the same time seeking the destruction of Iraq's," Major-General Tahir told the government's Al Sudan Al Hadith newspaper.

He denounced the "big plot

(Continued on page 5)

Serbian squads step up attacks on police

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Serbian hit-squads stepped up attacks on police stations in Yugoslavia's breakaway republic of Croatia Tuesday, killing one policeman and wounding nine in a third day of inter-ethnic violence.

Fighting between the Roman Catholic majority Croats and the Serbian Orthodox Christian minority was reported across Croatia, Yugoslavia's second largest republic which declared unilateral independence on June 25.

Serbian militants shot dead a Croatian policeman and wounded two others in an ambush in the village of Lipik, about 250 kilometres west of Belgrade, on Tuesday, police said.

Three police stations were attacked with rifles, mortars and machineguns, injuring seven policemen in villages around Glin, 50 kilometres south of the Croatian capital, Zagreb.

The attacks brought the toll since Sunday to three Croatian police or national guards killed and 24 wounded.

Croatia meanwhile demanded

that a European Community (EC) observer mission sent to monitor a shaky ceasefire in Slovenia also include Croatia.

Croatian Foreign Minister Davorin Rudolf said his government would insist that the mission also operate in Croatia. But its chairman, Jo van der Valk, said Monday his mandate only covered Slovenia.

No fighting has been reported in Slovenia for the last two weeks.

Meanwhile, a scheduled meeting of the Yugoslav state presidency, on the Adriatic island of Brioni, apparently collapsed because of a lack of quorum.

After the first 20 EC observers arrived in Zagreb Monday, Mr. Van der Valk, a Dutch diplomat, said his mandate only included monitoring the ceasefire between federal troops and local defence forces in Slovenia.

An agreement signed over the weekend said: "The monitor mission will concentrate its activities on Slovenia and, as appropriate, Croatia" unless there is an agreement to expand its activities.

(Continued on page 5)

PNC to convene

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation will convene the Palestine National Council soon to discuss recent developments in the region, Palestinian sources said Tuesday.

The PNC is responsible for decisions on strategy and the decision comes as U.S. Secretary of State James Baker prepares for his latest Middle East peace mission.

The sources said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had decided to convene the PNC quickly in view of developments in the region.

The last PNC meeting was in November 1989, when it adopted a peace strategy recognising the coexistence of the state of Israel and a Palestinian state.

The decision to convene the PNC was taken at a meeting of a PLO commission which completed work on proposals to reform the PNC, including reducing the number of PNC members from 452 to around 400 and bringing in dissidents and other new blood.

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Lebanon's defence minister demands Palestinian arms

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's defence minister, accusing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) of hiding its biggest guns, warned government troops would keep a tight grip around refugee camps in the south until PLO guerrillas gave up the weapons.

"The truth is that in the Tyre camps, there remain (heavy and medium) weapons...they (the Palestinians) still haven't handed over half their weapons," Defence Minister Michel Murr said Tuesday.

"This cordon around the camps is aimed only at the surrender of the weapons and when all the arms are handed over it will be lifted," he said after talks with U.N. envoy Martti Ahtisaari in Beirut.

Mr. Murr told reporters only 50 per cent of the PLO's heavy and medium weapons had been given to the army since troops deployed last week around Tyre, 75 kilometres south of Beirut.

The PLO says it has already surrendered all heavy and medium weapons in the three Palestinian refugee camps near the port. Its guerrillas are allowed to keep rifles and sidearms inside the camps.

The PLO holds that its rocket-propelled grenades are light weapons and therefore need not be surrendered, while the army classifies them as medium weapons and wants them handed

over.

Troops blocked roads last week with sand barricades and allowed the estimated 40,000 residents of the three camps through only one entrance and one exit.

Hundreds of troops moved to Tyre after routing some 6,000 Palestinian guerrillas from their last bases in South Lebanon as part of the government's bid to extend its control over the whole country.

The government wants to stop guerrillas launching attacks against Israel in the hope that the Jewish state will then have no pretext for remaining in Lebanon.

Israel and its Lebanese militia allies hold a 15-kilometre deep border ("security zone") and a finger of territory running north to the town of Jezzine.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Monday that the dismantling of Palestinian guerrillas would not prompt Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon while Syrian troops remain.

Mr. Murr said the army would not be dragged into battles inside the camps near Tyre but the clampdown would continue until all the guns were given up. The army has said it will not enter the camps.

"Heavy and medium weapons will be surrendered no matter how long the cordon (around the camps) has to last," Mr. Murr added.

Kidnappers want pressure on Israel to free hostages

BEIRUT (AP) — The suspected mentor of Shiite Muslim kidnappers accused Washington Tuesday of delaying the release of American hostages held in Lebanon by not exerting pressure on Israel to free Arab detainees.

Abbas Musawi, the newly-elected leader of Hizbollah, said in a radio interview that the United States was complicating the hostage issue "to fulfil political ends."

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah is believed to be an umbrella for Shiite zealots holding most of the 13 Westerners — six Americans, four Britons, two Germans and an Italian.

Since his election to the leadership of the party in May, Mr. Musawi has repeatedly said the hostages could be freed in return for 300-400 detainees, mostly Lebanese Shiites, held by Israel.

Israel insists that seven Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon be included in any such swap, and Hizbollah is known to hold two of these men. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) has said it has the body of Israeli Sergeant Samir Assad and is willing to swap it as part of the proposed package deal.

It is not clear how many of the others are still alive.

Resolving the hostage issue "will not cost the Americans anything except a measure of pressure on Israel to release Lebanese and Palestinian Muslim prisoners it holds," Mr. Musawi told Voice of the People, a radio station run by the Lebanese Communist Party.

"In return for this, there will be a release of American prisoners," added Mr. Musawi.

"The course of this issue has become clear and at the same time it has become clear that the Americans are the ones who don't want to treat this issue," said Mr. Musawi.

"The Americans don't want to resolve this issue. If America's handling of this issue had been humanitarian, the American administration would've accepted



Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid

the Iranian mediation and as a result the problem would've been solved," he added.

Iran, which is known to have helped arrange previous hostage releases, has said it would exert influence on the kidnappers again in return for a goodwill gesture from the West, such as pressure on Israel to free the detainees.

Although Mr. Musawi spoke only of the American hostages Tuesday, in previous statements he said all Westerners would be included in the deal.

The kidnappers have specifically demanded the release of a Hizbollah leader, Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid. Israel has said it would be willing to free Sheikh Obeid as part of a package deal.

Sheikh Obeid was kidnapped by Israeli agents in a raid on his village in South Lebanon on July 28, 1989.

Mr. Musawi said despite "complications" efforts were still under way to strike a deal. He would not elaborate.

Said Mr. Musawi: "The nature of this issue has created great complications but time will resolve them."

Asked to elaborate on the difficulties, he said: "God willing, persistent efforts and sincerity will resolve these complications. They will be revealed later."

Expelled Moroccan writer returns to France

PARIS (R) — A Moroccan dissident returned to Paris in triumph Tuesday, saying the French government was unable to justify expelling him nearly four weeks earlier.

"I have been accused of a lot of things. None of these accusations is true. I hope to be able to confront them in detail later," Abdul Moumen Diouri told journalists who met his flight from Libreville, Gabon.

Thanking the media for the role they had played in his return to France, the 50-year-old writer said: "I am exhausted. This has been a gruelling ordeal."

He was met by his lawyer, Mourad Oussedik, who had tirelessly campaigned for the writer's return since he was expelled to Gabon from France on June 20.

Mr. Diouri's return represented an embarrassment for the French government, which last week saw its expulsion order overturned by a French court.

The government, which is appealing against the court decision, had justified the order on grounds that Mr. Diouri had maintained contacts with Libya and Iraq while in France. His activities, the government said, were incompatible with his status as a refugee.

Human rights groups attributed the expulsion to the fact that Mr. Diouri was about to publish a book on the wealth of Morocco's King Hassan, an ally of France.

Mr. Diouri's supporters had warned that because of close ties between Morocco and Gabon he might not be safe, and his lawyer said last week the writer had narrowly escaped being kidnapped from his hotel in Libreville by Moroccan agents.

Levy lists 'understandings' with U.S.

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy has given a list of 10 "understandings" Israel had reached with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the format of a Mideast peace conference.

"Israel expects the United States to stand firmly behind the understandings and agreements achieved during the discussions with Secretary Baker," Mr. Levy said.

The understandings he outlined are:

A two-track approach, whereby Israel will negotiate simultaneously with Arab governments and with Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Negotiations will be without preconditions.

The peace process is not

designed to bring about a Palestinian state.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will not be a partner in the peace process, and will not take part in it.

Negotiations on the Palestinian issue will be in stages, as outlined in the Camp David accords. (The 1978 U.S.-mediated accords call for a period of autonomy for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, followed by negotiations on the territories' final status).

Palestinian negotiators must accept the two-track formula and the staged approach of the Camp David accords, and must be willing to live with Israel in peace.

Israel is not required to agree to a demand to a territory-

for-peace formula as a precondition for direct negotiations.

The peace conference will have no authority to make decisions. Its sole purpose will be to bring about direct negotiations between the sides.

Bilateral Arab-Israeli working groups will be established to advance projects for regional development with international funding.

The Soviet Union and the European Community must accept these understandings if they are to attend the conference.

"We still face problems that haven't been solved," Mr. Levy said. "But as Secretary Baker has said, the number of subjects that remain to be discussed are considerably smaller than those agreed upon."

Remote-controlled blast injures Turkish diplomat in Athens

ATHENS (R) — A car-bomb injured the Turkish consul in Athens Tuesday, two days before a scheduled visit by U.S. President George Bush during which Greek-Turkish relations will be discussed.

Police said Consul Deniz Bolukbasi, 44, was injured by the powerful blast as he drove to work a short way from the Turkish consulate in the northern Athens suburb of Psychiko. A woman administrative attaché and their driver were also injured.

Mr. Bolukbasi was standing in for Turkish Ambassador Gunduz Aktan who is on holiday.

The explosives, packed in a car parked 40 metres from Mr. Bolukbasi's home, were detonated by remote control as the diplomats drove by. Police said Mr. Bolukbasi was badly hurt but his condition was stable.

In Ankara, Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar said the consul's legs were broken in the blast. But he, the driver and the attaché had escaped critical injury because their car had been armoured.

"If it hadn't been an armoured car, they would have been killed," he said.

The blast shattered surrounding windows, cut overhead

powerlines, demolished two other cars and damaged many others.

Police identified the Turkish woman as Nilgun Kocaci and the driver as Adil Yildirim.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but the November 17 group, which has killed 16 Greeks and Americans since 1975, has used this method of attack in the past.

The Greek charge d'affaires in Ankara had been summoned to receive a note reminding the Greek government it was responsible for the protection of the Turkish embassy and staff in Athens and demanding that the attackers be brought to justice.

Armenian militants carried out dozens of attacks on Turkish diplomats abroad from the early 1970s to 1983.

The attack comes two days before President Bush arrives here for an official three day stay. Thousands of police have been assigned to cover the visit.

November 17, a Marxist-Leninist group, has set off remote controlled bombs in the past against members of the diplomatic corps, Western interests and U.S. military personnel stationed in Greece.

A U.S. Air Force sergeant was

killed when a remote controlled bomb went off as he entered his suburban home in March.

November 17 claimed responsibility for the slaying.

Tuesday's was the second bomb attack against Turkish diplomatic vehicles since May 1988. Two bombs exploded under two empty cars at night in the Athens neighbourhood of Pangrati. No one was injured in those attacks.

Premier Constantine Mitsotakis expressed his "deep grief" and "abhorrence" over the attack through his diplomatic emissary Loukas Tsilias.

Mr. Tsilias called at the hospital where Mr. Bolukbasi and Mrs. Kocaci had gone for treatment. He later told reporters that Mr. Mitsotakis will personally phone his Turkish counterpart Mesut Yilmaz to express his grief over the incident.

Mr. Bolukbasi had met briefly with Mr. Mitsotakis last Friday where he received a Greek memorandum calling for a demilitarised zone in the Balkans. Mr. Mitsotakis' proposal called for the withdrawal of offensive weapons near the Turkish and Bulgarian borders.

Bulgaria quickly welcomed the proposal but Turkey has not yet replied.

Kurds put their trust in peace as allies leave

By Nikos Konstandaras
The Associated Press

ZAKHO, Iraq — Hours after the last allied troops left Iraq Monday, people went about their business, expressing fear but also hope for a peaceful future.

"This is good," said Ibrahim, a Kurdish guerrilla, pointing to a checkpoint he and his comrades took over from U.S. paratroopers near the border with Turkey.

"But it would be better if the Americans, the British, the French and Italians stayed in Zakho," he said.

In the dark, Ibrahim could see the lights of the Silopi camp in Turkey, where an allied force will remain.

"It will be good if the Kurdish people and the government make peace," Mr. Ibrahim said after a while. "Then all this will end."

Over 13,000 allied troops entered northern Iraq in late April and established a 9,320-square-kilometre security zone for panic-stricken Kurds who had fled to the mountains after a failed rebellion against the government.

Almost all the 450,000 Kurds who fled to Turkey have returned home, and hundreds of thousands of the 1.2 million who went to Iran

are reported to have come back.

Monday afternoon, the last of the allied troops left. Their humpbacked Humvee utility vehicles were gone from streets and checkpoints, and troops had vacated the former Iraqi army compound that had been their headquarters.

The town was carrying on as normal, although the pull-out seemed to be on everyone's thoughts.

"I pray for these people. I hope there will be peace for all the Iraqi people, and for the Kurds," said Mr. Lokman, a 28-year-old selling soft drinks at the side of the road. Like Mr. Ibrahim, the guerrilla and all other people spoken to Monday, he preferred not to give his second name.

Mr. Lokman spent five years fighting against Iran and was called up to serve in Kuwait. He deserted during the Kurdish rebellion and fled to the mountains after it was crushed.

"Our only hope now is peace," he said.

Talks on Kurdish autonomy have been going on between Kurds and the government since early April. Despite frequent claims of imminent accord, no agreement has been reached.

"There may be an agreement tomorrow. There may be one the next day...or the day after," said Mr. Mohammad, a moneychanger.

He said he was not worried by the allied pullout.

"The coalition is in Silopi, and the Pesh Merga (Kurdish guerrillas) are the police here. The American planes fly over all the time..." he said.

"Business is not too bad," he said. "The dollar has gone up a lot."

Despite the official rate of about \$3 to the Iraqi dinar, a dollar generally fetches 7.75 dinars — up from an unofficial 6.6 dinars to the dollar two weeks ago.

At Shafken's hairdressing salon, a crowd of men held a lively discussion on the allied pullout while Shafken trimmed the beard of a guerrilla who had a handgun and a grenade tucked in his cummerbund.

The men agreed that it would have been better if the allies remained in Zakho. But they said they were not as afraid as they had expected.

Early in the allied occupation, the majority of people spoken to said they would run back to the mountains once the foreign troops left. They had staged demonstra-

tions, calling on the allies to remain.

But there were no protests Monday.

Mahmoud, an electrician who emigrated to Sweden 18 years ago, said he returned to Zakho two weeks ago to try to bring back his wife and two teenage daughters.

"I like it here. This is my country. My parents recently came back from Iran, where they were since 1975," he said.

"I hope that there will be an agreement. But even so, I will wait for two years before deciding to return," he said.

Outside the police station, only a patch of oil remained on the ground where a U.S. army military police vehicle had stood guard throughout the allied occupation.

A new moon rose over the Iraqi flag dangling in the still evening. A muezzin called the Muslim faithful to the mosque across the river.

Traffic jammed the main street and little boys watched Turkish television in several electrical appliance stores.

At a refreshment stand, men drank freshly-made pomegranate juice, clucking and shaking their heads as they listened an Arabic-language news broadcast about the trouble in Yugoslavia.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel fears brain drain to Brazil

TEL AVIV (R) — Brazil, hungry for high technology to boost its economy and its nuclear programmes, wants to lure thousands of Soviet Jewish scientists to its shores, Israeli press reports said. The reports — front-page news in Israel this week — said Brazilian science and technology secretary, Jose Goldemberg, had a \$100-million plan to attract 10,000 Soviet scientists and engineers, including many who had immigrated to Israel. Israeli leaders have described the arrival of 280,000 Soviet Jews since 1989 a blessing to help the Jewish state's economy and improve its security. But about 60 per cent of the newcomers with technical or university education are struggling to find work in the saturated local market. Some have applied for visas to countries such as Australia, Germany and the United States. A Brazilian embassy spokesman in Tel Aviv said his country's representatives were not involved in recruitment of any kind. Three Soviet Jews had delivered their resumes to the embassy since the reports appeared in the Israeli press. In Brazil last week, Mr. Goldemberg said he was particularly interested in attracting engineers. Most of the talent fleeing the Soviet Union would be interested in moving to Israel or the United States, he said, adding: "However, Israel and the United States cannot accept all of them."

PLO to close Denmark, Norway offices

COPENHAGEN (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Monday it would close its information offices in Denmark and Norway by the end of the year for economic reasons. "Since the Gulf war, Palestinians no longer have work in the Gulf states and are thus unable to go on paying tax for PLO operations, so we cannot afford to be represented here any more," said PLO Denmark representative Abdul Rahman Alawi Alawi.

Jailed Lebanese stabbed in prison

SAARBRUECKEN, Germany (AP) — A Lebanese, serving a prison sentence for kidnapping two Germans in 1987, was stabbed Monday at a prison in Saarland state, police said. Abbas Ali Hamadi, who was convicted of kidnapping two Germans in an attempt to free his jailed brother, Mohammad Ali Hamadi, received only slight wounds in the incident with another inmate, police said. He was treated at a local hospital and returned to the prison, police said. Mohammad Ali Hamadi, Abbas' younger brother, is serving a life sentence in Germany for the killing of a U.S. sailor during the June 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner to Beirut, on a flight from Athens to Rome. During the hijacking ordeal, 89 Americans were held hostage for 17 days. Abbas Hamadi, 31, was convicted and sentenced to 13 years in prison in April 1988 by a Dusseldorf court for kidnapping Germans Alfred Schmidt and Rudolf Cordes in Lebanon. Mr. Schmidt was released in September 1987, and Mr. Cordes one year later.

Kurds occupy Amnesty headquarters

PARIS (R) — Fifty Kurds occupied the Paris headquarters of Amnesty International Monday to protest against a recent surge of violence between Turkish security forces and Kurdish rebels, police said. The Kurds, who said they were members of the left-wing Kurdish Workers' Party, left the main hall of the human rights organisation's offices in northern Paris after a 45-minute peaceful sit-in. In the past six weeks more than 100 people have died in southeast Turkey in armed clashes between security forces and Kurdish rebels who have been fighting for a separate state since 1984.

Iranians charged with drug trafficking

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Three Iranians were charged in court Monday with trafficking in 195 grammes of heroin, for which they would face a mandatory death sentence if convicted. Mehran alias Muxpan Imani Mahmud alias Maxmya, 28, Sohrab Imani Mariman, 29, and Mohammad Sharif Karimpour, 30, were the first Iranians charged under Malaysia's stringent drug laws. They were charged with committing the offence at the Rex Movie House in Kuala Lumpur on July 1. No plea was recorded. Magistrate Lee Lay Choo fixed Sept. 16 for the next hearing, and the three were sent back to jail. Under Malaysian law, mere possession of more than 15 grammes of heroin is deemed to be trafficking. Since Malaysia adopted the death sentence in 1975 for drug trafficking, more than 385 people have been sentenced to death. Of these, 107 have been hanged. The others are awaiting dates for appeal or hanging.

CIA denies it secretly sold arms to Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Monday denied a broadcast report that it secretly provided weapons to Iraq through a Chilean middleman during the Iran-Iraq war. The report last Friday on ABC-TV's "Nightline" said President George Bush's nominee for CIA director, Robert Gates, met with Chilean arms dealer Carlos Cardoen as part of a covert CIA operation to transfer arms to Iraq. Mr. Gates was the agency's deputy director at the time of the alleged arms deal. The CIA issued a brief statement Monday saying the allegations that it provided military equipment of technology to Iraq, "with or without authorisation, are totally false." "There has never been a covert action programme authorising such action. Reports suggesting the contrary are without basis. Moreover, the CIA has never had a relationship of any type with Carlos Cardoen," the statement said.

Turkish bank in Germany damaged

HANOVER (R) — An arsonist lobbed a petrol bomb into a branch of Turkey's state-run Ziraat Bank Monday, police said. Firefighters quickly doused the blaze which caused about 100,000 marks (\$55,000) worth of damage to the bank in the northern city of Hanover. There was no immediate claim for the arson attack. Police said they did not rule out a political motive.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

16:00 Koran
16:15 Programme review
16:25 Children's programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
18:30 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 News in Arabic
22:00 News in English
22:30 La Cavaliers Ann Yany Vert

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Art programme
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
20:00 News in Hebrew
20:30 Don't wait up
21:30 Silk Route of the Sea
22:00 News in English
22:30 La Cavaliers Ann Yany Vert

PRAYER TIMES

06:41 (Sunrise) Fajr
07:34 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:41 Dhuhr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383
625443
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823024, 654932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 18 / 34
Aqaba 25 / 39
Djerz 19 / 35
Jordan Valley 24 / 39

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMBULANCE: Dr. Majid Abu Smeir 881635
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 732056
Dr. Hanna Mansour 743664
Dr. Khalil Elde 671128
First Pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asasa pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IBRD: Dr. Ayman Abdul Halja (—)
Dr. Al Sharaa' pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA: Dr. Salah Safarini (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 36, Humidity readings: Amman 39 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630241
Rescue 630241
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Akheh Maternity, J. Amn. 64441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushair Hospital 66727/77
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

AMMAN: MUNICIPALITY

Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 603681
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 62240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA: Zarga Gov. Hospital (09)983322
Zarga National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732
IBRD: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital (02)274100
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

Blocs, deputies voice their views on government

(Continued from page 1)

regard to a gradual application of reforms conforming to Islamic teachings. He said that the new government was intent on enacting a "drastic change in the national policy adopted by the Jordanian people, 1945-46, the United States, the first enemy of the Arab Nation."

Mr. Azzaidh said that the new government's plans, contradicting the House of Parliament and disregard of Islamic teachings.

He cited as an example the government's "disregard" of Islamic teachings in the extraordinary session of Parliament.

Mr. Azzaidh accused the government of retaining regulations of martial law despite a declaration of its abolition.

Mr. Azzaidh referred to the country's education system and said that the government had failed to come up with a clear-cut programme for mobilising the youth in accordance with Islamic teachings. He said that the Muslim Brotherhood "considers the present members of government as failing to form an efficient and responsible team capable of shouldering the country's responsibilities."

National Bloc

Member Deputy Selman Arar delivered the views of the 17-member National Bloc.

"God favoured Jordan with an honest people, free of the diseases of the world, such as bigotry, divisions, and sectarianism," Mr. Arar said. "God also favoured Jordan with a far-sighted historical leadership, which believes in the message of this nation and is working hard to develop Jordan and strengthen it for its people and for the Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian issue," he said.

Mr. Arar, a former House speaker, said the National Bloc would give Mr. Masri's government the vote of confidence because of two reasons: That the prime minister was known to every member of the House through the ministerial and parliamentary posts he served in and was known by everyone who knew him as a man of good deeds. Second, he said, the government is being led for the first time by Mr. Masri; "we cannot judge the members of the government except by their past life, which testifies for their good deeds, and not base our judgement on imagination and illusion."

The government has the right to be given the chance and that discussion in the current stage should centre on the government's policy statement presented last Thursday, Mr. Arar said.

"Before words are proved by deeds, and based on the policy statement we find it inevitable to give this government the vote of confidence... and to urge our brothers, the representatives of the people, whether blocs or independents, to give the government a vote of confidence," he said.

Mohammad Al Dardour

Ramtha Deputy Mohammad Al Dardour expressed reservations about the composition of the new government and said it "does not conform to the democratic process in Jordan."

Mr. Dardour referred in particular to the fact that Irbid Governorate is represented by only four ministers in the present government although that governorate accounts for one third of the Kingdom's population. He also said that despite its size and population, Irbid Governorate had only 20 seats in the House.

Mr. Dardour made a number of demands related to public transport and health. He said that he wanted the government to implement a comprehensive health service for all citizens and the construction of hospitals in the north.

Mr. Dardour said that government's policies concerning the termination of the present border post and its services in Ramtha was bound to harm the interests of many people.

Mr. Dardour supported the government's statement concerning the educational process. He said he reserved other remarks and comments and demands for a later date.

Mohammad Abu Oleim

Deputy Mohammad Abu Oleim of Al-Mutlaq Governorate criticised the government's policy statement because "it either identified the problems and promised to solve them without saying how, or because it gave shallow and old solutions."

He said that Jordan was faced with political problems which cannot be solved unless political changes take place.

Mr. Abu Oleim warned of the Israeli expansionist threat and of

the Jewish immigration to Palestine and called for the unification of ranks to counter dangers threatening Jordan and for the liberation of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Salameh Ghweiri

Deputy Salameh Ghweiri addressed the session, reminding the government of plans to deal with important questions like unemployment, soaring prices, low income, poverty and reduced investment, as contained in the government's policy statement, and said that Parliament was looking forward to seeing the government putting its plans into action.

Mr. Ghweiri, who represents a Zarqa constituency, presented several demands concerning the state-owned land, on which many people in Zarqa Governorate had built homes without proper authority, and demanded a quick solution to the problem.

Mr. Ghweiri criticised the former government for closing down 37 factories in the Amman and Zarqa region and said that the move was detrimental to national industry and national income. He demanded that the government help farmers along the Zarqa River benefit from the local water resources to boost their production and to drill more artesian wells in the Zarqa, Duleil and Hallabat region to supply more water for farming. Mr. Ghweiri supported the government's statement concerning the opening of a new university in Zarqa, and plans to strengthen the youth activities in Jordan.

He also supported the government's plans to end differences among Arab countries and bring about solidarity in the Arab World and backed the government's efforts to help the Palestinian, regain their rights and homeland.

Mr. Ghweiri wished the government success in its endeavour and in implementing His Majesty King Hussein's directives.

Jamal Al Saraiheh

Deputy Jamal Al Saraiheh announced that he was withholding confidence in the new government, accusing the government of trying to impose policies by force.

"The present stage is very critical and the nation is facing serious challenges, a situation which requires a special group of unity men with strong will and efficiency, capable of shouldering responsibility," said Mr. Saraiheh.

Abdullah Zreikat

Deputy Abdullah Zreikat congratulated Prime Minister Masri and his colleagues and said that he hoped to see the new government implementing its programme in full. But, he noted, the government cannot find solutions for various issues overnight. He criticised those accusing the new government of planning to hold separate negotiations with Israel and said: "Jordan can never serve as a substitute for the Palestinians, who should be granted their full rights, including the right to establish their own state on their own land."

Mohammad Zaben

Dr. Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben, who represents the central Badia region, noted in a brief address that deputies "will be watching carefully the implementation of the government's programme as presented to Parliament."

"We can judge on the acts rather than on the words and we plan to criticise but not to attack the government and we are willing to allow the government a chance to work," Dr. Zaben said.

Dr. Zaben announced that in six months from now he planned to demand a general discussion of the country's internal policies.

Constitution Bloc

Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh presented the position of the Constitution Bloc.

He quoted parts of a statement presented to the former government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran by Mr. Masri acting as member of the Lower House.

Mr. Rawabdeh reminded Mr. Masri of his call on the previous government to open the door for change and for the adoption of an integrated programme to meet the various demands of the people as best as possible.

Mr. Rawabdeh said that the new government's policy statement steered away from using general terms and opted for specifics, focusing partly on unemployment and poverty and promising firm measures to deal with them. He said Parliament and the general public can be the judge on the government's future action.

The deputy also reminded Mr. Masri it was he who demanded from the former government an

end to all regulations pertaining to martial law and the Constitution Bloc is wondering whether the new government would honour the commitment of abolishing the martial law in word and deed, Mr. Rawabdeh said.

Mr. Rawabdeh said that the Badran government had promised to enact laws on press and publication and on political parties and asked what this government had done in preparation for such plans. He asked what the present government intends to do in order to enhance the constitutional rights of the citizens and reminded the prime minister of his demands directed to the Badran government in this respect.

Mr. Rawabdeh wondered whether the new government was serious about implementing the entire programme as presented to Parliament.

Mr. Rawabdeh reminded the prime minister that he had demanded from the former government the development of the public administration and a clear integrated plan for public administration reform.

He also reminded the prime minister of his demand to reduce the national military service from two years to one and noted that such plan was not included in Mr. Masri's policy statement to Parliament last week.

The policy statement was also void of Mr. Masri's earlier demands for raising the salaries of government employees, Mr. Rawabdeh said.

He criticised the government's policy statement for being devoid of any mention of plans to end all "bad treatment" of Palestinians visiting the Kingdom from the West Bank. He said that in his demands from the former government Mr. Masri had noted that following the severing of the Kingdom's legal ties with the West Bank Palestinian visitors have been facing difficulties and sufferings and humiliation while visiting the follow-up and inspection department and other departments. But Mr. Masri's policy statement did not include any promises to deal with this important question, Mr. Rawabdeh said.

Mr. Rawabdeh also referred to the Palestinian people's rights to get Jordanian passports and said that Mr. Masri had demanded that the issuance to Palestinians a two-year passport should be re-examined. The deputy said that the policy statement was also void of this important subject.

Mr. Rawabdeh concluded by saying that "the policy statement was generally good despite some defects, but the present government is not up to the level of the policy statement."

"We request that you inform Parliament of the reform that you had been demanding and intend to carry out so that we can judge you on that account," he said.

Democratic Bloc

The view of the seven-member Democratic Bloc was presented by Deputy Fakri Kassar.

Submitting a list of demands from the government, Mr. Kassar said that the government would be judged by its actions rather than by its promises and pledges.

"There is a big difference between words and actions and between dreams and realities," he said. "The government's policy statement is full of promises which can satisfy no one nor remove poverty, or liberate usurped lands or strengthen the Arab entity or unify Arab ranks in the face of the colonialist, Zionist onslaught or end our subjugation to foreign hegemony," he said.

"We are not too optimistic or too pessimistic about this government. Nor are we fully satisfied about its composition, but we hope that it will live up to its promises and achieve our aspirations," Mr. Kassar added.

Mr. Kassar said that the Democratic Bloc supports the government in its policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict, but urges it to coordinate its moves with Arab countries in the face of U.S. pressures "which aim at excluding Palestinian representation."

He said that the bloc wanted the government to end all forms of martial law and its implications, especially in matters to the release of all persons convicted for political reasons or those dismissed from their work on similar ground.

The bloc also wants the government to the municipalities law and laws pertaining to all professional associations and trade unions, he said.

Mr. Kassar said the government should introduce political, economic and social changes in a manner that would ensure the progress of democracy. "This can be achieved once the government has enacted laws on political parties, press and publication, labour and parliamentary election," he said.

Mr. Kassar also made demands such as the formation of a youth federation, a federation for all farmers in Jordan and not the Jordan Valley alone and to allow teachers to have their own union.

Mr. Kassar said that his bloc wanted the government to give a clear-cut pledge to ensure free elections for workers' unions, to allow labour unions to open the door for any workers to join and to refrain from tampering with workers' organisations.

Mr. Kassar said that the bloc demands that the government adopt a clear and firm policy of substituting non-Jordanian workers with Jordanians and to force employers to respect Jordanian workers' rights and refrain from arbitrary dismissals.

Mr. Kassar demanded that the government adopt a taxation system that aims at forcing the rich to pay more tax to introduce a system by protects local industries from foreign competition.

Mr. Kassar demanded that the government revise the Ministry of Education's programme, functions and administrations of the First National Education Conference of 1987.

The deputy referred to the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW) and said that the federation's demand for general election should be respected and that such long awaited elections be held.

Mr. Kassar demanded that the Greater Amman Municipality system be abolished and that elections should be held to choose representatives of various municipalities in towns surrounding Amman.

Laith Shbeilat

Mr. Laith Shbeilat, called on the Lower House to support Prime Minister Masri saying that his personality and reputation embody the national unity. However, he demanded that a national coalition government be formed. He called on Islamists, democrats and nationalists to work out their different programmes for a coalition. He said that members of such a coalition could participate directly or indirectly in the make-up of the government and give others the chance to rally behind this solid structure, thus strengthening it.

Mr. Shbeilat called for rising above slogans and for placing the interests of the people above those of parties or blocs. The only parties that can exert pressure, aimed at amending the Constitution and legislation, were the Islamists, democrats and nationalists working together.

He said that the coalition programme should include the following amendments to the Constitution and legislation in force:

— Amending article 73 of the Constitution which provides for taking the House's views into consideration and article 88 which allows for filling in vacant seats. "Article 73 is a sword threatening the deputies' heads," therefore, he said, major laws on formation of political parties, press and publications and defence cannot be discussed objectively under much intimidation.

— Amending article 78 of the Constitution with a view to making the House's ordinary session last for nine months. "In this regard, one can not really understand why the executive power recognises the need for the National Consultative Council to last for 12 months, while it cannot tolerate the House for more than four months," Mr. Shbeilat said.

He went on saying that such a measure cannot be interpreted as a wish on the part of the executive power to escape the control of the House.

He also called for amending the General Intelligence Department Law, to limit the authority of intelligence officers who act as prosecutors general.

Mr. Shbeilat also called for amending the passport law, with a view to correcting the constitutional violation, linking the renewal of passport with approval from Security Department.

Mr. Shbeilat pointed out that such amendments are indisputable. "No two honest and faithful people differ on these points," he said. He added that they were part of many slogans which have no relations with beliefs, but are of interests to the people.

He said that people do not care for slogans and rhetoric, but only care for such amendments.

Mr. Shbeilat concluded that ideological goals and beliefs could not be achieved before implementing these transitional proposals and amendments.

"The implementation of these amendments and proposals is bound to terminate the atmosphere of repression and dominance, in which cowardice, corruption and hypocrisy thrive and human resources are drained," he added.

"If you accede to these amendments and proposals, you will contribute to placing the train on the safe track, otherwise the government, which has been formed in accordance with the National Charter, will not be relieved of having to prove its credibility and the credibility of the blocs taking part in it."

Moreover, he said, it has to prove that it will adopt these few demands, and implement them before discussing and approving the political parties and publication laws. If the government fails to do so, then it will surely be a government that involves itself in everything except the basic issues, like former governments, he said.

Mr. Shbeilat recalled the amendments the government had made to the 1952 Constitution, which enhanced the balance between the legislative and executive powers. These amendments, he said, distanced the Constitution from its objectives.

Among these amendments are the following:

Article 33, paragraph 2 of the Constitution was amended on May 4, 1958, to exclude the implementation of conventions, alliances, commercial agreements, navigation and other treaties from the Parliament's terms of reference.

Article 34 was amended on Nov. 10, 1974, to authorise the King to dissolve the Upper House of Parliament or relieve any of its members from his duties.

Article 45 paragraph A was amended on Sept. 1, 1958, to entrust any state business to any party other than the Cabinet, in accordance with

the Constitution or any other legislation. Before the amendment, the article allowed that in accordance with a law or a regulation.

Article 54 paragraph 3 was amended to accept the royal letter of appointment to the government as a ministerial statement if the Lower House were not in session. Before, the government had to present its statement to the House within a period of two months if the House was not in session when the government was formed.

Article 57 of the Constitution was amended on May 4, 1954, to designate the speaker of the Upper House of Parliament as president of the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution, thus replacing the head of the highest court.

Article 65, paragraph 1 of the Constitution was amended on Nov. 1, 1955, to reduce the Upper House's term to four years instead of eight years.

Article 73-4 was amended on Feb. 2, 1976, to authorise the King to postpone holding general elections without any time limit if there was a case of force majeure. Previously, the article allowed postponement for a maximum of one year.

Article 74 of the Constitution was amended on May 4, 1954. Under the new amendment, the government, during whose term the Lower House is elected, does not have to resign within one week following the election of the House members.

An amendment to article 78, paragraph 3, enforced on Oct. 16, 1955, reduced the House's ordinary session from six months to four months.

Article 88 was amended to allow for the election of some of the House members to fill vacant seats in cases of force majeure.

An amendment to article 94 was made on May 4, allowing the government to issue provisional laws, while the issuance of such laws was restricted for emergency, including natural disasters, state of war and the need for urgent assistance.

Article 95 of the Constitution, amended on May 4, 1954, limits the number of deputies and Senate members, who can propose draft laws, to ten.

The authorities of the executive power were divided and accordingly some authorities became the responsibility of individuals or boards of directors not related to the government. In practical terms, the army does not fall under the government's authority but maintained a formal link with it.

Commenting on people's description of the present government make-up, Mr. Shbeilat said that the only difference between this government and the previous governments was the presence of a larger number of personalities who enjoy the love and respect of the people.

He said that this government was not similar to that of the late Sultan Masri. He went on saying that some people called the present government a "negotiation government."

"Well, was the previous government a government of armed struggle?" asked Mr. Shbeilat.

He defended the Parliament against the executive power, saying that the executive power was behind the alleged neglect in public institutions. He supported his argument by saying: "If the evidence given by the first witness in the Petra Bank case was right, then who are the major defendants in this case? Is it the government which is prejudiced against the Central Bank, or is it the Central Bank who had full knowledge about violations, which it cited as evidence against the Petra Bank? The Central Bank knew about all the risky deals and about the influential debtors," he said.

Mr. Shbeilat questioned the Central Bank's non-interference in the Petra Bank affair, saying that it might have been supported by the executive power, and that was probably a reason for the Central Bank's non-interference.

He also touched upon the Royal Jordanian, and blamed its losses on those who used to supervise it. He defended the RJ's 5,000 staff, saying that they should not be blamed for the losses.

He said that the "clique that slaughtered the RJ and sucked the last drop of blood from it was the same group that established two air transport companies which undermine RJ cargo section operations."

WHAT'S GOING ON

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

★ Exhibition of paintings by Ms. Cherry Pickles at the British Council.

VACANCY NOTICE FOR INFORMATION ASSISTANT WITH AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

A regional office of an international organisation is seeking an information assistant to assist in the daily activities of its external relations section by carrying out research and documentation work and maintaining contacts with the media. The right candidate will be responsible for the audio visuals and publications library and the production of publications in both Arabic and English. Duties also include the distribution of publications to the various country offices served by the regional office. Minimum requirements of the post are first university degree or equivalent in arts or public relations, with a minimum of 5 years experience in the information field. Good English proficiency and good working knowledge of classical Arabic. Computer skill and desktop publishing is an asset.

Attractive salaries and good fringe benefits are offered.

Candidates who meet the above requirements should submit their bio-data in writing to the Personnel Section, P.O. Box 811721, Amman, Jordan, not later than 31 July 1991.

Statistics show brucellosis cases are on the increase

AMMAN (J.T.) — Statistics about brucellosis cases released by the Health Ministry indicate a sharp rise in the number of Jordanians affected by the disease over the past five years.

According to the statistics, there was only one case of brucellosis in Jordan in 1979. It has since risen to 521 in 1986, 622 in 1989 and 729 in 1990. These figures only show those cases which were referred to government and private hospitals or health centres. According to Health Ministry sources, there are many others which remain unknown.

The sources said that veterinarians and doctors or medicine are among those who are most exposed to this disease, apart from

the farmers, and that 28 out of 85 veterinarians employed by the Ministry of Agriculture were among those infected over the past five years.

A locally produced vaccine used by veterinarians to inoculate animals, particularly sheep and goats, has proved ineffective because the sharp rise in the number of brucellosis cases in the Kingdom began shortly after the use of the vaccine was initiated in 1985, the sources said.

The sources said that in 1989 12.8 per cent of the total number of sheep in Jordan or 250,000 heads were infected by brucella (bacteria that causes disease in man and domestic animals). They said that inoculation of animals against the disease was essential.

Human beings can easily be infected if they depend on animals for most of their food.

The sources said that while the Health Ministry is trying — through preventive medicine which entails immunisation against the disease — to curtail its spread in Jordan the Ministry of Agriculture is trying to inoculate animals to prevent the spread of the disease.

However, they said that their efforts were not enough especially as the locally developed vaccine is not effective at a time when more and more Jordanians depend, to a great extent, on milk and its various by-products, which are a vehicle for the spread of animal diseases to human beings.

Jerash festival — lesser in size, as grand in attraction

By Mariam M. Shahin

Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — This year's Jerash Festival for culture and arts, scheduled to open Wednesday, may have the least participants and be the most popular since the festival was first started 11 years ago by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The festival's attractions, Lebanese singers, Marcel Khalifeh and Majda Roumi, are expected to draw at least 15,000 people to the Roman Amphitheatre in the centre of the ancient Greco-Roman city.

The two popular Arab singers are expected to draw an enthusiastic crowd unrivalled by audiences drawn to major attractions in previous years. Despite the large crowds expected to attend the Khalifeh and Roumi concerts, the festival will be of less amplitude by comparison to previous years in which up to 45 international dance, song and theatre groups participated.

With the exception of Spain and Lebanon, there are no other foreign entries in the festival.

The Gulf war and the uncertainty that it created over the country's stability are major reasons why no groups registered to participate this year, says Akram Masarweh, the festival's director.

"Not knowing when the Gulf war would end, we were unable to prepare properly for the festival," Mr. Masarweh told the Jordan Times.

Commenting on the absence of international groups at the festival, Mr. Masarweh said that they too "had no idea when the war would be over

and many are still uncertain about stability in the region."

Transportation is a third major reason that has reduced the festival to three foreign and seven Jordanian shows besides 24 poetry and music readings.

The road previously used was taking 35 minutes to reach Jerash from Amman. It is now under construction, further affecting the festival's size.

"This year people will have to use the Sukhna road, through Zarqa, to get to Jerash," Mr. Masarweh said.

Although road signs significantly facilitate driving to Jerash on the detoured road, Mr. Masarweh said that preparing the road had been seen as a major obstacle in planning the festival this year.

As a result of the road changes, festival organisers have arranged that poetry and music readings be performed at municipal centres, in the capital and in other parts of the country.

"The relocation of some of the activities to local centres will give the festival a new dimension," Mr. Masarweh said.

Observers feel that despite the evident difficulties the festival faces, it could still be successful.

"People in Jordan are not really looking towards the West culturally at a time so soon after the Gulf war. So the absence of Western groups will not cause a major stir just yet," said one veteran observer of the festival.

"The presence of (Mr.) Khalifeh, who is a well-known and possibly the most popular pan-Arab singer in the Arab

World, will create enough atmosphere to bring half of Jordan on its feet in applause," said the observers.

"Majda Roumi, on the other hand, is not the political singer that Khalifeh is but has great popularity amongst all classes in our society, just like (Mr.) Khalifeh, and will thus also attract full house," added the observer.

Mr. Khalifeh, a native of South Lebanon, has been banned from performing in most Arab countries despite great popular demand and black market sellouts of his recordings. Many Arab governments have expressed reservations about his politicised lyrics which call for freedom and liberation for the poor and oppressed.

Mr. Khalifeh has never performed in Jordan and his appearance at the festival, which will be opened under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, is seen as yet another step in moves to politically liberalise Jordan.

The two performances are expected to gross JD 125,000, according to Mr. Masarweh. The cost of bringing the two stars to Jerash is about JD 70,000.

While Mr. Masarweh conceded that last year's festival losses had not been covered yet, he said that a financial settlement was forthcoming.

The finances of this year's festival, Mr. Masarweh said, have not been discussed yet. The government was unable to provide free plane tickets for participants this year because of a tight budget, Mr. Masarweh said.

INVITATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN A TRAINING WORKSHOP

The National Jordanian Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce will hold a training workshop on

Incoterms 1990

in cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT). The workshop includes a briefing and analysis of the latest developments and changes in international commercial terms, and their effects on the contracting parties and those responsible for organising documents, opening letters of credit, including merchants, bank employees, shipping agents, clearing houses and exporting and importing companies. Delivering lectures at the workshop will be Mr. R.R. K. Battersby, moderator of the international group of experts on commercial terms at the International Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Dave Green, the international director of the shipping/transport corporation.

The workshop programme includes the use of visual aids and overhead projectors, in addition to lectures and discussions.

VENUE: Amman Chamber of Commerce's assembly hall, Shmeisani
DATES: Wednesday 31 July 1991 from 8:30 until 17:30 p.m.

SUBSCRIPTION FEES: JD 60 for the first participant, and then JD 55 for each additional participation from the same establishment or corporation.

NOTE: 1. Subscription fees include all the workshop papers, the incoterms 1990 book, it also covers lunch, coffee and tea.

2. The deadline for receiving participation applications and payment of fees is Thursday 25 July 1991. Applications and fees are received at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, Shmeisani

The National Jordanian Committee of

Jordan Times

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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Your move, Mr. Baker

A LOT OF water has flown under the bridge since the day American Secretary of State James Baker first came to the Middle East in the wake of the Gulf war to revive the Middle East peace process. A lot has been discussed and debated, and we have reached a point where the Arab side has given concession after concession with high hopes that the light at the end of the tunnel would be the universal acceptance of the principle of exchange of land for peace and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians as the basis of an Arab-Israeli settlement.

Syria's positive response to President George Bush's proposals have to be seen in this light. But, so far, there is very little to be seen that would indicate any shift in the stubborn Israeli stand.

In a superficial sense, the moment of truth is here. It has been established beyond any doubt that the Arabs and Palestinians are ready to offer sacrifices for the sake of peace that would secure the return of their land occupied in war. They have come a long way since 1947 and there can no longer be any question over who wants what in the region and who stands in the way of peace. Israel's outright rejection of any role for the United Nations, the organisation that created the Jewish state in the first place, and its refusal to accept the PLO as the voice of the Palestinian people have been crowned lately with its reaffirmations that the goal of any negotiations will neither be the creation of a Palestinian state nor the return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

Israel's vehement rejection of the call by the London summit of the Group of Seven for an end to the Jewish state's policy of building settlements in the occupied territories speaks volumes over the realities in any international approach to the Middle East conflict.

Where does that leave us, or, for that matter, anyone who is interested in a peace settlement based on fairness and justice?

For the optimists, the Israeli declaration could be the negotiating posture the Jewish state might adopt if there were to be peace talks. For us in the Arab World, these mean something else: That the Jewish state has no intention whatsoever of returning any Arab land and that it is blinded by its military might, supported by its guardian angels in the West.

The moment of truth may or may not be here. But we fail to see what purpose it would serve if the world powers do not follow up their words by deeds. The European Community, by linking any trade benefits to Israel with peace in the region, has indeed taken a right step in the right direction. Can we expect something along the same lines from Washington?

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily newspaper Tuesday voiced regret that the days that preceded the vote of confidence session in Parliament were dedicated only to criticise or praise ministers rather than discussing the contents of the new government's policy statement. The paper said that the Parliament members did not hold a single serious dialogue about the implementation of the King's directives to the new government, but busied themselves with the question of whether such governments would win a vote of confidence or not without giving ample consideration to its plans. There is nothing that can prevent a deputy from giving or withholding confidence in the new government but such attitude should not be founded on personal interests because this will harm the democratic process in the country, the paper noted. Voting on the government is not a matter of settling old scores or finding means to take revenge on some or all of the cabinet members, but it is a democratic process which normally follows a thorough study of the new government's plans and programmes, the paper noted. The paper also regretted that even the daily newspapers did not give due consideration to the implementation of the King's directives as given to the government of Taher Masri and went along the general trend of speculating on the government's chances of success in Tuesday session. If the policy statement is acceptable to the majority of Parliament members, the paper added, the country should witness joint efforts by the executive and legislative authorities to conduct a successful democratic process benefiting the country at present and in the future.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily appealed to the Arabs not to abandon the Iraqi people and leave them facing the new U.S. aggression alone. Mohammad Saeed Midieh said the U.S. is trying to find a pretext to launch aggression on Iraq and this is obvious in its claim over its concern about the Kurds or by stressing allegations that Iraq has not disclosed all of its nuclear installations to the U.N. teams. In his article entitled "Don't leave Iraq alone facing the colonial powers," Midieh said that the Americans were exploiting the Kurdish question to achieve their own selfish interests and to devastate what has been left of Arab dignity and military power so that they can never stand up to Israel and its atrocities. It is really appalling to see human rights groups and international organisations reports on the need of dealing with famine and diseases threatening Iraq totally ignored by the Western nations; and it is indeed astonishing to see lack of action on the part of the world community to save some 180,000 Iraqi children facing death, the writer said. Midieh said that what was shameful indeed was to see Arab countries totally indifferent as to the fate of their sister state and its oppressed people facing fresh threats of aggression. The writer warned that each Arab country will face similar repression and it was only a matter of time before such disaster occurred and therefore Arabs had no alternative but to join hands and face this common danger together. He said that the American colonial power had no interest in anything but to cause famines and deal devastating blows to other nations' stability and territorial integrity.

Economic Forum

The economic thinking of the government

By Dr. Abdullah Malki

THE policy statement of Taher Masri's government presented to the Lower House last Thursday contained a section on Jordan's economic affairs. That elaborate and elegantly-worded part tried to sketch out an economic policy, but was neither impressive nor persuasive. Although it might be novel in text, the conceived new economic policy is old-fashioned in spirit and is actually a continuation of the economic policies of the past two governments now cloaked in a different garment.

Given the special circumstances of Jordan and the regional environment at this turbulent stage, there is no economic policy capable of effecting qualitative change and tackling Jordan's current problems and prospective challenges other than the kind of policy that is firmly anchored to genuine and far-reaching concepts of economic freedom and liberalisation. The government may go on experimenting with various other prescriptions, but it will not work and we will reap only headaches as well as waste time and effort.

The core of the economic programme embodied in the government policy statement is the rectification of what is termed as internal and external imbalances which refer, as cited in the statement, to the consumption output gap, the budget deficit and the deficit on the current account of the balance of payments. One instantly recognises that these imbalances constitute the old, even

very old, economic problems of Jordan and assumes that they could not be remedied by old means. New approaches have to be employed to tackle them if we hope to arrive at better results. Let us look into these economic headaches and see how the approaches to them do matter.

The first cardinal objective of the government is to reduce the proportion of consumption to gross (domestic or national) output. This refers to a desire to provide more of what we consume from what we produce. So far, we have been relying on foreign aid to import part of what we consume. There are two possible approaches for reducing that percentage: (a) to cut consumption through the easy way of, for example, higher taxes and inflation as we did during the last three years (b) to boost output and maintain consumption intact. Hopefully, the government will resort to the more difficult but very rewarding second approach which necessitates creative new thinking.

The second imbalance to be attacked by the government is the current account deficit. The fact that this account was separated from the (non-monetary) capital account, which records transactions relating to long-term investments and external debt, suggests that the problem of our external debt will be treated on the basis of special arrangements (with IMF, the Paris Club or individual creditors). However, redressing the current deficit

means cutting imports of goods and services and/or boosting our exports with imports being the main front of action in the short and medium terms. Cutting imports can be handled effectively through direct regulation of imports or indirectly through measures such as currency devaluation that follow the IMF traditions. The second approach has been tested since 1988 and gave Jordan its worst economic crisis. We have to wait and see whether the government wants or can switch to a new approach.

The third gap is the budget deficit. There is no denying that the reduction of this deficit is necessary to a successful economic adjustment. But the bone of contention relates to what is the appropriate means. Public expenditures might not be accomplished by any more, which means that the job has to be accomplished through more revenues. Increasing taxes will have the immediate effect of boosting tax revenues in the very short term but depressing them for ever after. Cutting taxes will have a reverse effect as it will improve the investment climate and thereby invigorate production incentives in the medium and long terms. Naturally, any minister of finance is prone to be victimised by the long desire to get immediate revenues and to forget about the long term when others will be responsible for balancing the books of government. However, we sincerely hope the government will opt for the long-term view, which is the view that really matters.

Gorbachev may get foot in the door of capitalism, but little else

By Martin Crutsinger
The Associated Press

LONDON — In the beginning, there was talk of a "grand bargain" to provide billions of dollars in Western assistance to the collapsing Soviet economy. But what summit leaders actually offer Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is likely to be far less grandiose.

In fact, the Soviet leader will probably go away from London with little more than a symbolic foot-in-the-door to capitalism in the form of an associate membership in the International Monetary Fund.

The summit leaders are virtually assured of reaching agreement on that proposal, first floated last December by President George Bush. This designation, never used before, would be a sort of halfway house in the world of international finance.

It would allow the Soviets to tap into the tremendous pool of expertise the IMF has on how to fix an ailing economy. But it would not give Mr. Gorbachev what he really wants: Full membership and the ability to borrow billions of dollars from the IMF and its sister agency, the World Bank, the world's premier sources of development funds.

Never before has an outsider been invited by the heads of the world's seven richest countries to make a personal appeal for aid at their annual gatherings.

But in the days leading up to the summit, Mr. Bush and other world leaders went out of their way to lower expectations about what Mr. Gorbachev will receive. "We don't expect blank checks of miracles in London," Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said after conferring with Mr. Bush.

A big infusion of money "isn't in the cards," Mr. Bush said

Sunday.

Beyond the IMF observer status and its promise of technical support, Mr. Gorbachev probably also will come away with individual pledges of technical assistance from the summit countries for projects to reform the country's banking system and boost oil and gas production.

Still, the possibility for some surprise exists, given the desire of all the leaders not to make it look like Mr. Gorbachev received so little in Western assistance that it weakens him at home.

Germany, concerned that a Soviet economic collapse would cause massive headaches in its unification efforts, has led the way in pushing for more of a Western response, supported in that effort by France and Italy.

"There is too much at stake simply to wait and see how the situation will further develop," argues German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Soviet supporters are continuing to press for assistance approaching between \$25 billion and \$35 billion per year over the next five years. Those funding levels were envisioned by the Soviet and Harvard University economists who drafted the so-called "grand bargain" plan.

However, the United States, Japan, Britain and Canada oppose aid anywhere close to those amounts, contending the money would simply be wasted until the Soviets make more progress in transforming to a free-market economy. That view is likely to win the day.

There is an outside chance that the summit countries will agree to set up a currency stabilisation fund to be used by the Soviets when they launch their promised effort to make the ruble convertible into other currencies. The United States has expressed reservations about setting up the fund now.

The West set up a \$1 billion stabilisation fund last year to bolster Poland's currency, the zloty.

Such an effort has a great deal of appeal in the West where business executives have complained for years that a big barrier to setting up Soviet operations is that they can't take their profits out of the country without a convertible currency.

The need to make the ruble convertible was mentioned prominently by Mr. Gorbachev in a 23-page letter he sent to each of the summit leaders, an appeal that Mr. Gorbachev tried to tie to particular concerns in the West.

He also dwelt on efforts underway to cut Soviet military spending by 25 per cent, something that the United States and Japan have been stressing.

One carrot that apparently won't be extended in London is

sharply reduced tariffs for Soviet exports to the United States. There had been an expectation that Mr. Bush would announce the "most-favoured-nation" trade benefits at the summit, but Brent Scowcroft, Mr. Bush's national security adviser, told reporters Saturday that technical problems were holding up authorisation of the tariff reductions.

Mr. Scowcroft also suggested Saturday that the IMF and the World Bank may be asked to undertake another study of the Soviet economy to better determine how the West can respond. Further study may be the easiest initiative to win agreement on.

After all, that's exactly what the seven summit countries did last year in Houston when they couldn't break the impasse between the countries supporting aid and those opposed.

A head of steam for reform

A debate is raging in Britain these days over constitutional reforms. Labour Party MP Tony Bea writing in the Guardian, urges speedy action.

THE pressure for fundamental reform of the British constitution has built up so rapidly that it is worth listing some of the factors that have led to the rising level of discontent with the status quo.

It is by no means confined to one side of the political spectrum. Almost everyone — from the Euro-federalists on the right to the radicals on the left — seems to agree that Britain's democracy is seriously flawed; as do a majority of Scots, those who support proportional representation or open government, and the growing number for whom the feudal array of Crown Prerogatives is becoming increasingly obsolete, restrictive and offensive.

Corrupt patronage, defects in the administration of justice, the abuse of police and security service powers, the limitations imposed by electoral politics, and our medieval parliamentary rituals have all contributed to public disillusionment.

None of these issues is really new, and the reformers have always been with us, but for half a century or more a wholly different group of people has been saddled with the blame for our national decline.

Political correspondents and leader writers have blamed Britain's problems on the irresponsibility that is supposedly endemic in our society, as demonstrated by lazy workers, incompetent managers, militant shop stewards and political extremists.

It hardly ever occurs to these opinion formers that a contributory factor to our frustration might be the fact that at the very top of our society there is a great deal of flaunted privilege and power with very little accountability to anyone.

We have been given a lopsided view of reality, and the reporting of our affairs has been confined primarily to the conduct of the principal actors on the political stage as they engage in the elaborate parliamentary shadow-boxing that often conceals an unspoken agreement about the main issues of the day.

Britain, it could be argued, is moving delicately towards a one-party state, creating a crisis of representation for those who hold alternative views or whose basic needs are not met.

The collapse of authoritarian regimes in Eastern Europe and elsewhere has removed one of the props of the crude, scapegoating analysis. Popular movements for reform, freedom and democracy in other countries are attracting favourable attention here and inspiring us to follow suit.

People are beginning to realise that the world-wide explosion of

technology has tended to centralise economic, industrial and state power — private as well as public — in all countries. That process has made many of our institutions out of date and has, in turn, given birth to a mass of new social movements seeking to win for ordinary people some effective control over their destiny.

The mechanisms by which Britain is governed are deliberately cloaked in mystery, and discussion about them has been actively discouraged in the hope that the

populace at large will accept that we have the best system in the world; that everyone, everywhere, is green with envy at the near-perfection of our democracy.

But at last it is dawning on us that we are not citizens with entrenched rights, but subjects bound to the Crown by a network of absurd oaths of allegiance that require us to await, and obey, the orders that are handed down. This creates a political culture of subservience at every level, not least in the House of Commons.

The prime minister, using the Royal Prerogatives, enjoys immense power to make war, sign treaties; agree to European Com-

munity legislation; appoint ministers, peers, archbishops and judges; as well as determining who will head our public institutions — all without a legal requirement to consult anyone.

The maintenance of strict official secrecy over all these dealings is the key to the acquiescence of the public in this charade. One recent example of this nonsense is the way in which a notional "life-long obligation of confidentiality to the Crown" has been used, as in the Spycatcher case, to conceal illicit operations by security services that have become a state-within-the-state, with no effective legal restraint on their activities.

There is now widespread concern at the steady erosion of our civil liberties, which has been going on for years.

Pressure for constitutional change is necessarily political in character, and always has been. The barons at Runnymede in the thirteenth century... Cromwell and the Parliamentarians in the seventeenth... the Chartists in the nineteenth... the Suffragettes in the twentieth... Edward Heath and the Euro-party... Margaret Thatcher and her decision to abolish the Greater London Council — they were all engaged in politically motivated campaigns for constitutional change, and the two cannot be separated.

I have introduced many constitutional reform bills, two of which — the 1963 Peerage Act and the 1975 Referendum Act — actually got on to the statute book, and I am not surprised at the extent of the interest and support that has been attracted since the publication in May of my Commonwealth of Britain Bill (see panel).

But one word of warning is necessary: however good a constitution may look on paper, it will be meaningless unless it actually encourages strong political activity.

A constitution is like an engine that requires steam to make it work — even the most perfectly designed engine will not move without it. And however powerful the head of steam, it will dissipate into hot air and there will be no forward movement if the engine itself is defective — as our constitutional engine manifestly is.

Popular anger and frustration, which under our present constitutional system cannot be channelled into effective action, is potentially dangerous, encouraging apathy, cynicism or even violence.

If the Commonwealth of Britain Bill stimulates serious discussion, it will have served its immediate purpose, but I hope nobody suggests that we set up a Royal Commission into the Constitution.

We must act — and act quickly.

Benn's proposed bill

THE Commonwealth of Britain Bill has been drafted to bring together, in one place, all the issues now being discussed, and its basis is the belief that the ultimate sovereign power belongs to the people as a whole, not to the Crown or to Parliament.

Those powers are only lent to the MPs we choose at each election, and they must be returned, intact, so that the electors can determine to whom they wish to entrust them next.

Sovereignty does not mean we alone can determine our fate, nor does it imply splendid isolation, but it affirms our right to decide who shall make the laws and take the decisions that allow us to respond to situations that, by definition, no nation can hope to control.

Such an approach requires decentralisation, so that those who make the decisions are the closest to the people who will be affected by them, and it is for this reason that the Bill I have drafted seeks to root all power back to the people over whom it will be exercised.

The test of democratic accountability for anyone with power requires us only to ask them these questions: what power do you have?; where did you get it from?; in whose interests do you exercise it?; to whom are you accountable?; how can we get rid of you?

□ In my Bill, a Charter of Rights and Freedom of Information Act are entrenched and monitored. Judges would have to be confirmed, magistrates would be elected, and there would be a national legal service.

□ This new constitution is federal, democratic and secular, in which both houses of the Commonwealth Parliament — the House of Commons and an elected House of the People — as well as the national parliaments in England, Scotland and Wales, would have an equal number of men and women, would sit for a fixed four years, enfranchise everyone over 16 and grant general powers to local authorities.

□ Britain's international relations, our treaties and our links with the UN and the EC would be matters for the House of Commons to determine, as would the acceptance or rejection of foreign forces on our soil and the oversight of our security services.

□ British jurisdiction over Northern Ireland would terminate.

□ There would be a complete separation of Church and state.

□ The legal status of the Crown, the Lords and the Privy Council would end.

□ And a president would be chosen by the Commonwealth Parliament, with limited powers, taking a new oath, along with all public officials, to uphold the constitution itself.

□ The Bill provides for a referendum before it could come into force, and among the matters put out to popular decision would be the choice of the electoral system to be adopted.

Kuwait's democracy

still far off

By John K. Cooley

LONDON — Under international pressure, Kuwait's rulers have eased their harsh approach to those believed to have collaborated with Iraq. But with democracy still far off, the country's non-Kuwaiti population, mainly about 200,000 Palestinians, faces an uncertain fate.

The ruling family lifted martial law on June 26. Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salim Al Sabah, the crown prince, commuted to life imprisonment 29 death sentences, handed down mostly to Palestinians, Jordanians and stateless Arabs. Civil courts continued the trials of people suspected of collaborating with the occupying Iraqi forces.

But more than three months after its liberation, and with free elections not scheduled until October 1992, Kuwait remains without a parliament or free democratic institutions.

The ruling Sabah family seems to give little credit to the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and other non-Kuwaiti Arabs and Asians, who, through skill and hard work, helped build the emirate's prosperity. Instead, Kuwaiti officials say they want to dramatically reduce the numbers of such people in the country.

The Kuwaiti ambassador in Washington, Saud Nasir Sabah, has confirmed that Kuwait would soon drive out many Palestinians. Work and residency permits, he said, would not be renewed. Other Gulf states, he added, would follow suit.

Critical U.S. congressmen, the ambassador said, are told, "If you're concerned about human rights and leaving 250,000 Palestinians in Kuwait, which really poses a threat to our security, we'll be more than happy to air it to you free of charge, and you give them citizenship in the U.S."

This led Arab commentators to wonder, in the words of a Jordanian columnist, whether by classifying an entire community as a "security risk" and expelling it, the Sabah family would not be setting a precedent for Israeli settlers' groups and other Israeli rightists who advocate the "transfer" to Jordan of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

What Kuwait can get away with, runs this argument, Israel, still defying the wishes of its U.S. benefactors to halt Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, should have no trouble carrying out. Mass expulsion of Palestinians would seem almost certain to lead to a new Israel war with Jordan and probably Syria.

The Sabah government says it wants Kuwaiti nationals to become, for the first time, a majority in their own country. Computerised records smuggled out of Kuwait during the war showed Kuwaitis making up only 40 per cent of the population, though the Kuwaiti ambassador put the figure at 28 per cent. Before an earlier series of deportations of Arab and Iranian nationals during the Iran-Iraq war, Jordanians and Palestinians accounted for 22 per cent of the total.

But with its policy of expulsions, the Kuwaiti government does not seem to realise what it will be losing. The high academic and technical qualifications of the Palestinians, some of whom have been in Kuwait since the exodus from Palestine 1948, have earned them top jobs. But they were given neither Kuwaiti passports nor civil rights. Most hold Jordanian passports or travel documents issued by Egypt or Lebanon.

Non-Kuwaitis set up the country's legal system in 1958. A Palestinian judge, Ahmed Said Hijazi, and other Palestinian and Egyptian jurists were invited to Kuwait for that purpose. Based on separation of powers, the judicial system was one of the best and most independent in the Arab World.

But the military courts in operation after the war issued vengeful verdicts clearly harmful to Kuwait and the cause of peace. Kuwait's rulers must recognise that draconian penalties and deportations, condemned by humanitarian bodies, governments and the United Nations, have no place in President George Bush's "new world order."

Surprisingly, Mr. Bush has refused to pressure Kuwait to introduce democracy or improve its human-rights record — or so Sheikh Saud reportedly has claimed.

The San Francisco Examiner of June 17 quoted the Sheikh as saying that President Bush had told him: "Listen, Mr. Ambassador, we didn't fight this war for democracy or those things. Don't be intimidated by what's going on."

Kuwait has taken an important step in the right direction. But now the United States and the allies who helped liberate Kuwait should help it to move faster and further.

The writer, a London-based correspondent for ABC News, is the author of the forthcoming "Payback: America's Long War in the Middle East." His comment is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Prospects brighten for government

(Continued from page 1)

the confidence vote battle after the Muslim Brotherhood bloc announced its decision to unanimously withhold its confidence from Mr. Masri's government.

Although Mr. Masri boasted the support of his own National Bloc (17 members), the Democratic Bloc (9), independent Islamic (6) and some of the liberals and independents, his government still needed the added strength of the Constitution Bloc to outweigh the Muslim Brotherhood and its sympathisers.

In their statement to the House, Tuesday, the Brotherhood movement said it was withholding confidence because it opposed any peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and called on their "friends" to withhold their votes in order to bring the government down.

Deputy Ahmad Qatish Al Azaidh, the movement's spokesman, accused Mr. Masri's government of being a "puppet of the United States" and said it would distance Jordan from "Iraq and demolish the nationalist stand Jordan adopted during the Gulf war."

While reiterating his move-

ment's decision to deny the Cabinet confidence, Mr. Azaidh added that if it was to succeed in securing the confidence of a majority among the deputies "it would be because of pressure on certain members."

Observers believe that Mr. Azaidh was specifically referring to the Constitution Bloc's meeting with the King and senior officials, especially since the comment was handwritten at the end of the Brotherhood's prepared and typed statement.

Sources within the bloc reject the Brotherhood's accusation as groundless. They maintain that the bloc was already tilting in favour of Mr. Masri's government after they met him Monday evening.

No details of the talks between the bloc and Mr. Masri were immediately available.

Many deputies who spoke at the House's Tuesday session asked for government assurances that it will refrain from pursuing bilateral talks with Israel and to seek coordination with Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"We need assurances from the government that it will not enter talks with Israel without coordinating with the four other parties

involved in the conflict," said Amman Deputy Fakhri Kassar, who was speaking on behalf of the nine-member Democratic Bloc.

Independent Islamist, Amman Deputy Laith Shbeilat, called for constitutional reforms that would give the House more authority and strength. He proposed a reshuffle in Mr. Masri's government to include all blocs and trends of political thinking in the House, including the Islamists.

Mr. Shbeilat had earlier in the week told the Jordan Times he was withholding confidence from Mr. Masri but urging others not to follow suit.

"There are those who say that this government came to negotiate with Israel as if the former government was in armed struggle (with Israel)," Mr. Shbeilat said in a direct reference to the Muslim Brotherhood's criticism of this government compared with the bloc's decision to join its predecessor.

Although no concrete breakup of votes was possible early in the confidence marathon, both the government and the deputies believe that Mr. Masri will secure the needed majority of 41 votes and may be able to secure close to 50 votes by the time of voting.

Iraq formally asks for Arab inspection

(Continued from page 1)

aiming to destroy Arab and Islamic dignity and pride."

Iraq responded positively to U.S. and U.N. demands for inspection of its nuclear capabilities. Gen. Tahir said. He called the threats of military attacks "unjustified blackmail."

Gen. Tahir said Arab and Islamic countries should "reconsider their calculations and tighten their ranks to foil the plots and save what can be saved."

U.N. disarmament experts said Monday they had discovered a large unfinished uranium enrichment plant north of Baghdad that Iraqi authorities had not previously disclosed.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director Hans Blix said the find was an example of inconsistencies in Iraqi declarations of its nuclear materials. Under an April 3 Security Council ceasefire resolution, Iraq must reveal and scrap its weapons of mass destruction.

Professor Maurizio Zifferero, in charge of IAEA nuclear inspection teams in Iraq, told reporters late Monday after addressing the Security Council that the hidden facility, near Al Sharqat, a village between Mosul and Tikrit, was about 18 months away from production.

He said the plant was identical to one Iraq had declared in Tarmia, near Baghdad, for enriching uranium through an electromagnetic method. Enriched uranium can be used to make a nuclear bomb.

"The fact that only one of the twin facilities was recognised as a site for calutron activity is puzzling because Al Sharqat is almost a carbon copy of the one they had declared," Prof. Zifferero said.

Soviet Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov discounted an immediate military attack, saying: "We don't know where these materials are hidden. Who are they going to attack?"

All the experts asserted that Iraq had a clandestine atomic weapons programme. Iraq has maintained that its programme is for researching peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Mr. Blix said the programme was so expensive it could not possibly have been used to produce cheap electricity. "Most people would say it was not plausible that this was a peaceful programme," he said.

Another expert, Jay Davis from the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California, said Iraq's uranium-enrichment facilities probably cost \$4 to \$8 billion to build.

Iraq was using an expensive technology developed in the Manhattan project that produced the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. This involves bulky electromagnetic isotope separation equipment, called calutrons.

Rolf Ekeus, director of the U.N. Special Commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said he hoped the present information was complete.

"But that cannot be a working proposition for the commission in light of past performances," he said.

"We have to continue the search and we will continue," Mr. Ekeus said.

PNC to meet

(Continued from page 1)

The proposals will now be submitted to Mr. Arafat for approval.

PLO sources said dissident groups based in Damascus had been invited to attend but boycotted the meeting which began in Tunis on Sunday led by PNC Chairman Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh.

The pro-Syrian Saika, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command led by Ahmad Jibril, and the Salvation Front led by Khaled Al Fakhour, want a political agreement before they will rejoin PLO ranks.

The Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas, which is not currently a PNC member, did not attend the meeting either. It has demanded 40 per cent of the seats in the new parliament and that the PLO harden its line on Israel.

Baker sees possibility for peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

coming forward, that clearly would be good for those who want peace in the area. It is a very, very important step."

"They've made statements to us of wanting to do these things, and now here will be a good test," Mr. Bush said after instructing Mr. Baker to return to the region.

Mr. Bush said he was prompted by a "good response" from Mr. Assad in his letter on setting up a Mideast peace conference. "We're just going to go forward and keep pressing," Mr. Bush told reporters.

Asked if Mr. Assad had agreed to the administration's proposal without any conditions, Mr. Baker said he did not want to go into details.

He added that in Mr. Assad's letter, "there are some suggestions made in there that we want

to discuss with him to make certain that they are not in any way interpreted as conditions."

Syria Tuesday urged leaders of the Group of Seven to put pressure on Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab territories.

Remarks by Syrian commentators in the state-controlled media, appeared before the G-7 leaders in a draft communiqué called for the suspension of Israel's settlement drive in the occupied territories.

The Syrian commentators said that Syria's long-awaited acceptance of the U.S. proposals was timed to grab utmost attention at the London summit, which began Monday.

"Now that Syria has declared its position...the world and those seeking stability in the region have nothing left to do but put pressure on the rejectionist and belligerent side," said Al Baath

newspaper, organ of the ruling party.

The acceptance by Damascus, the paper said, had "confronted the big powers with their responsibilities to stop the Zionist claim that the Arabs are the obstacles to peace in the region."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was quoted Tuesday as saying it was up to Israel to make the next move in the Middle East peace process following Syria's acceptance of the U.S. proposals.

"The ball is now in the court of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir," Mr. Mubarak said in an interview published in the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat.

Mr. Mubarak said he had discussed with Mr. Assad the letter to Washington. "I believe his reply is flexible which means that the ball is with Mr. Shamir," Mr. Mubarak said.

G-7 urges end to Israeli settlements

(Continued from page 1)

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir as the sole party rejecting the Bush formula.

Mr. Shamir, who wants to exclude the U.N. from the peace process, turned down both Mr. Bush's idea of having a U.N. representative without speaking rights attend the conference and his proposal for a conference that could be reconvened periodically if all parties agreed.

The G-7 idea of freezing settlements and suspending the Arab boycott of companies doing business with Israel harked back to an idea first proposed by Mr. Baker on his first post-Gulf war Middle East mission in March.

Rut when Mr. Baker suggested the package, neither Israel nor the Arabs were interested, he later told reporters.

Israel has since stepped up its settlement drive in deliberate defiance of the United States, while officials in Washington have threatened to block an Israeli request for loan guarantees worth \$10 billion to help absorb Soviet Jewish immigrants.

At the same time as it was hurriedly planning the Baker mission, the United States won backing from its unit partners for its uncompromising policy towards Iraq.

The G-7 endorsed actions against Iraq and came close to backing President Bush's stance that sanctions should be maintained until Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was removed.

"We intend to maintain sanctions against Iraq until all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council have been implemented in full and the people of Iraq, as well as their neighbours, can live without fear of intimidation, repression or attack," the communiqué said.

"As for the Iraqi people, they deserve the opportunity to choose their leadership openly and democratically."

Iraq has already been put on notice by Mr. Bush that it risks being attacked again unless it discloses the full extent of its

nuclear programme and surrenders all nuclear material to U.N. inspectors.

The five permanent members of the Security Council last week set a July 25 deadline for Iraq to comply.

The summit noted that more remains to be done to establish democracy in Kuwait, which allied forces freed from Iraq six months ago.

"We look forward to the forthcoming elections in Kuwait and to an improvement of the human rights situation there and in the region," they said.

In a special declaration on arms transfers and non-proliferation, the summit said:

"We support the proposal for a universal register of arms transfers under the auspices of the United Nations and will work for its early adoption."

The statement built on the proposals of several G-7 members.

But it stopped short of calling for a temporary ban on arms sales to areas of tension like the Middle East, as some politicians and experts had suggested.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said a moratorium would have been "far too sweeping and not particularly helpful."

Instead, the seven recognised that many states needed to buy weapons to ensure their security and right to self-defence.

But they said the Gulf crisis had shown the dangers of allowing a country like Iraq to acquire a massive arsenal far beyond the needs of self-defence.

"We are determined to ensure such abuse should not happen again," the declaration said.

Mr. Hurd said: "The urgency of tackling this has been brought home to all of us by the Gulf war."

"We all accept that countries have the right to defend themselves and that includes the right to buy arms to defend themselves...but the experience of Iraq and the Gulf war leads us to believe that is not enough."

The seven said a U.N. register would alert the world to attempts

by countries to build their military might beyond a reasonable level.

It said information should be provided to the U.N. regularly after all arms sales had taken place and major arms exporters should develop a common approach to their sales policies.

"All countries should refrain from arms transfers which would be destabilising or would exacerbate existing tensions," the declaration said.

It urged special restraint in sales of advanced technology weapons and components with possible military applications.

The seven reaffirmed their support for a total ban on chemical and biological weapons.

"Use of such weapons is an outrage against humanity. In the event that a state uses such weapons each of us agrees to give immediate consideration to imposing severe measures against it," the declaration said.

A U.N. arms register was only one of the additional functions for the world body envisaged by the G-7.

In a separate political communiqué, the seven said:

"We believe the conditions now exist for the United Nations to fulfil completely the promise and the vision of its founders."

The communiqué said a key feature of the future international order would be "preventive diplomacy," making clear to potential aggressors the consequences of their actions.

In setting out its vision of an expanded U.N. role, the G-7 called on all member states to make larger contributions for disaster relief. It suggested several different ways to make the world body more effective:

— The designation of a high-level official answerable to the U.N. secretary-general responsible for directing the international response to emergencies.

— An improvement in arrangements for transferring relief supplies to crisis areas.

— A greater role for the U.N. in warning of impending crisis and better forward planning.

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U.S. wins 1st gold at World Student Games

SHEFFIELD, England (AP) — A change in tactics let Brian Pajer interrupt China's winning streak in swimming Monday to capture the first U.S. gold medal in the men's 100-metre breast stroke at the 16th World Student Games.

The 23-year-old Californian set the morning's fastest qualifying time of 1:03.65. His coaches thought that he could do even better.

"Brian made a few tactical errors in the morning, primarily from the excitement of the meet itself," said Bob Clemmer, the U.S. assistant men's coach.

After talking it over with head coach Jay Fitzgerald, Clemmer said, Pajer decided to change a few things: "They included being a bit more under control in the first part of the race, which he was tonight."

The result? Pajer clocked 1:03.21 to defeat Chen Jianhong of China, whose 1:03.59 was good enough for the silver medal.

Some 5,000 competitors from 111 countries are grappling for medals in 11 sports — swimming, athletics, diving, fencing, tennis, basketball, field hockey, volleyball, soccer, gymnastics and water polo.

The games continue for ten days in this northern English city.

On the first full day of competition Monday, Chinese world champion swimmers made an immediate impact.

Fifty-metre freestyle champion Zhuang Zong of China won the

first gold medal of the games, taking the women's 100-metre freestyle in 56.28. Teammate Wang Xiaobang took the silver in 56.87, ahead of Canadian Andrea Nugent, who finished in 57.31.

World 400m individual medley champion Lin Li set a games record, leading for the whole eight lengths and finishing in 4:42.56. Sheila Taormina of the United States finished second in 4:52.10 and Canada's Patricia Noall took bronze in 4:52.17.

Stephen Caron of France struck gold in the men's 200 metres freestyle and the Soviet squad won the women's 800m freestyle relay after a thrilling final length battle between Natalia Trefilova and Karen Kraemer of the United States.

But the Soviets finished 0.6 seconds ahead at 8:14.48, while the Americans finished at 8:14.54.

The Soviets won the first gymnastics gold but not without a fight from the Japanese.

The Soviet squad of Andrei Kan, Kiril Tereshchenko, Igor Despalov and Nikolai Tikhonovich edged the Japanese 171.85 points to 171.75.

They extended the win streak of the dominant Soviet men, who have won every major team competition they've entered since placing second to China at the 1983 World Championships.

China took the bronze with 170.100 points, and the United States was third with 165.660 points.

Aouita is back on winning track

NICE, France (R) — Moroccan middle-distance supremo Said Aouita returned to the winning track at last with a morale-boosting men's 1,500 metres victory at the Nice Athletica Grand Prix.

It was the first triumph of the season for Aouita, world record holder over the distance, who has been recovering from injury.

He moved to the front just before the bell and, without having to produce his magnificent final burst of old, managed to hold off the challenge of Australian Pat Scammell and Matthew Yates of Britain.

Aouita won in three minutes 37.46 seconds, a time exactly eight seconds off the world record he set six years ago in Berlin but a boost to his hopes of winning gold at the forthcoming World Championships in Tokyo.

The Moroccan, who had surgery on the calf muscles of

both legs in June last year, had accumulated defeats since his return to the track this season.

Before the race he had said he wanted a time of around 3:37 to show he was well on the way to success in Tokyo.

He plans to run one more race — 5,000 metres in St Denis near Paris Friday before the World Championships.

There were four 1991 world bests to celebrate.

Algerian Noureddine Morceli knocked four seconds off the best of the season to win the men's 3,000 metres in 7:37.34, beating 10,000 metres Olympic champion Ibrahim Boutayeb and world cross-country champion Khalid Skah, both of Morocco, in the process.

Ana Fidelia Quirot of Cuba clipped 0.57 off her previous best run of the season to win the

women's 800 metres in 1:57.34, just edging out Ella Kovacs of Romania.

Briton Liz McColgan took the women's 3,000 metres in 8:39.23 seconds, more than two seconds inside the previous best of the season by Marie-Pierre Duros of France.

American Sandra Farmer-Patrick beat her own best with 53.54 in the women's 400 metres hurdles.

American 100 metres world record holder Leroy Burrell had a winning outing in the 200 metres but his time of 20.50, just 0.03 ahead of Frankie Fredericks of Namibia, was far from impressive for a man of his undoubted class.

European 400 metres champion Roger Black of Britain, back to brilliant form of late, was well beaten by Roberto Hernandez of Cuba, who clocked 44.65 to black's 45.03.



Said Aouita

Breukink, team mates drop out of Tour de France

SAINT-HERBLAIN, France (R) — Pre-race favourite Erik Breukink of the Netherlands, along with the rest of the PDM team, has dropped out of the Tour de France cycle race after being struck by a mystery illness.

It is the first time since the tour started in 1903 that an entire team has been forced to withdraw because of illness.

"Nothing indicates that the PDM riders suffer from food poisoning," race doctor Gerard Porte said. "It's a bacterial infection, but we will have to wait until we get the results of tests under way to be more precise."

PDM team director Jan Jaspers said Tuesday Breukink, Sean

Kelly of Ireland, Raul Alcalá of Mexico and Jos Van Art of the Netherlands were running fevers and did not start the 11th stage from Quimper to Saint-Herblain.

Breukink, third in the overall standings behind defending champion Greg Lemond of the United States, lost his other five team mates during Monday's 10th stage from Rennes to Quimper.

Dutch rider Nico Verhoeven and Germany's Uwe Raab were not able to start the stage, while Belgium's Jean-Paul Van Poppel and Martin Easley of Ireland did not find the strength to finish. German Falk Boden was eliminated for arriving too late in Quimper.

PDM were one of the strongest teams in this year's tour and Breukink, Kelly and Alcalá were all in the top 10 overall placings. Kelly was sixth and Alcalá ninth.

"It's a pity to lose such a strong team and riders like Breukink, Kelly or Alcalá but the race must go on," said race director Jean-Marie Leblanc. "We will soon be able to tell exactly what the illness was."

Time trial specialist Breukink finished third in last year's tour and was favoured by many to win this year's race. He did badly in Saturday's time trial, after which Lemond seized the race leader's

yellow jersey, but was still regarded as one of the American's most dangerous rivals.

Spaniard Miguel Indurain immediately benefited from Breukink's withdrawal, jumping to third place overall, two minutes and 17 seconds behind Lemond.

Frenchman Charly Mottet won the 11th stage, a 246-kilometre ride. Belgium's Johan Museeuw was second and Djamilidine Abdoujaparov of the Soviet Union third.

Defending champion Greg Lemond of the United States retained the race leader's yellow jersey.

Brazil beats Ecuador 3-1

VINA DEL MAR, Chile (R) — Defending champions Brazil, saved by a last-minute goal, knocked out Ecuador 3-1 in a South American Soccer Championship group B match on Monday and scraped through to the finals on goal average.

Brazil, in one of their poorest performances in years, needed a two-goal advantage to pass Uruguay and advance to the finals with Group B leader Colombia.

Mazinho II converted in the eighth minute from a pass by Mauro Silva to give Brazil an early lead.

But Munoz equalised four minutes later heading in a rebound off the crossbar of a header by Ron from a corner, and the match became a dramatic succession of rapid counter-attacks that could have given either side victory.

A free kick by Brazil captain Neto hit the left post in the 15th, followed by a lone 80-metre breakaway by Ecuador attacker Aguinaga who missed the goal.

Mazinho II hit the crossbar in the 40th with a high shot. Brazil coach Paulo Roberto

Falcao, under heavy criticism for his squad's poor record that included a 2-0 defeat to Colombia, shook up his team for the crucial match, fielding Marcio Santos to replace Gortardo in defence.

He also left Renato, Careca and Rai on the substitutes bench, and put on uncapped Bragantino striker Silvio and fellow club forward Mazinho II.

Marcio Santos headed in a corner in the 54th to rekindle Brazil's chances.

But then Mazinho II was sent off for hitting a Ecuadorian defender and Brazil faced the last 14 minutes with only 10 men, losing coordination to the point of quarrels between their own players.

Falcao substituted Careca for Silvio, who hardly touched the ball all game, and Luiz Henrique for captain Neto.

One minute from the end, Luiz Henrique broke away alone from the half way line and slammed home Brazil's third, securing their place in the finals.

Brazil faces favourites Argentina Wednesday and Colombia plays Chile in the six-match, round-robin final.

Seles' absence was caused by injuries

MAHWAH, N.J. (AP) — Monica Seles, the Greta Garbo of Tennis, ended her self-imposed silence and seclusion Monday.

In a statement issued by her Cleveland-based agent, International Management Group (IMG), Seles revealed that the celebrated injury which led to her withdrawal from Wimbledon last month was "shin splints and a slight stress fracture in my left leg."

Seles, whose whereabouts and health have been a mystery, is scheduled to re-emerge this week for an exhibition event in northern New Jersey.

Her brother and manager, Zoltan, confirmed Monday that the world's top-ranked player will play in the Pathmark Tennis Classic at Ramapo College. Although Seles was scheduled to play in the Hardcourt event, Tournament Director John Korff was not absolutely certain she was coming until he got the word from Zoltan in a phone call from Seles' home in Sarasota, Florida.

"She said Monica is fine, that she's practicing and playing great," Korff said. "He said she's looking forward to playing here." Seles, yet to speak publicly about her withdrawal from Wimbledon, will hold a news conference at Ramapo Wednesday.



Monica Seles

day, the day before she plays her opening match in the tournament.

In the statement issued Monday by IMG, Seles said she might have gone public earlier, "but I did not want to make a statement with contradicting facts in it because I might have misled my fans and the public. Now that I have a clear idea of what my injury is and how to prevent it from happening in the future, I feel comfortable speaking about it."

"I do not know the exact medical terms, but the doctor who has worked with me diagnosed shin splints and a slight stress fracture in my left leg. The injury first occurred in March 1991, and at the French Open

during practice I hit my left leg with my racket on the same spot and re-injured the leg."

Seles, 17, hasn't played a match since beating Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the French Open final on June 8. Citing an unspecified injury caused by a "minor accident," she withdrew from Wimbledon three days before the tournament started on June 24 and then dropped out of sight.

Since then, there have been Seles sightings in Colorado and Florida and rampant rumours about her physical status, including reports that she was pregnant, suffering from shin splints and recovering from an auto accident.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to clarify and clear up all the speculation and rumours," Seles' statement said. "Without dignifying any of the specific rumours, I would like to definitively state that I have had absolutely no problems other than a leg injury."

"My leg is now feeling fine, and I am very excited about playing tennis again. I look forward to strengthening my No. 1 ranking and most importantly having fun and enjoying myself."

Because of the mystery surrounding Seles, her appearance in Mahwah could turn into a media circus. The tournament

has issued 141 press credentials, three times more than last year when Steffi Graf and Jennifer Capriati were the main attractions.

Reporters, however, are not the only ones who want to speak with Seles.

Gerard Smith, executive director of the Women's Tennis Association, has been trying to get in touch with her since she pulled out of Wimbledon and was fined \$6,000. Smith would like to know why she skipped the most important tournament in the World and ruined her chances for a rare sweep of the four Grand Slam titles.

Smith doesn't plan to attend the Mahwah tournament, but said he hopes to reach Seles on the phone sometime this week.

"I'm anxious to speak with her and I think she's anxious to speak with us," Smith said. "There's obviously been a communication problem and we'd like to clear that up."

Officials at the Federation Cup also would like to hear from Seles.

Seles is expected to represent her native Yugoslavia in the 32-nation tournament next week in Nottingham, England, but Federation Cup officials haven't spoken to her since Wimbledon.

Soccer group to assess

S. African readmission bid

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A Confederation of African Football (CAF) delegation arrives in South Africa Wednesday to assess prospects for ending a 24-year ban on participation in world soccer.

Solomon Morewa, general secretary of the non-racial South African Football Association

(SAFA), said: "We are certain that CAF will endorse our return to the international game after seeing for themselves the progress we have made."

"I know they will be impressed with the non-racialism we have achieved at grassroots level," Morewa told the South African Press Association.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠982 ♠AK103 ♣J7652 ♦6
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

A.—We know there is a school that believes in responding one heart with this type of hand, but include us out. Since partner will show hearts if he has four, our preference is for one diamond. That will leave us well placed for any rebid partner might make.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K883 ♠K6 ♣752 ♦KJ53
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♣ 1 ♠ 3 ♣ 3 ♠
What do you bid now?

A.—Partner's vulnerable overall, even at the one-level, must show a reasonable hand, close to an opening bid. A jump raise to three spades is invitational, asking partner to go on to game with a sound overall, and that bid best describes your hand.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A105 ♠K976 ♠AQ102 ♦A10
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 3 NT Pass
What do you bid now?

A.—No matter what the range of your one-trump opening bid, you have a super-maximum in support of hearts. Let partner of the good news by making the cheapest cue-bid available, in this case, three spades.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠73 ♠AQJ53 ♠KJ9 ♦763
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—Although partner has shown a maximum in support of hearts, you have no slam interest. While we would not fault four hearts much, we think three no trump, showing a balanced hand (you have already promised five hearts), is more descriptive.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A105 ♠K976 ♠AQ102 ♦A10
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 3 NT Pass
What do you bid now?

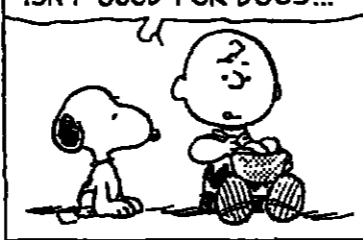
A.—The obvious bid is four hearts. However, your hand is so good that we think it merits another move toward slam, especially since you can do so below game-level. Cue-bid four clubs.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠73 ♠AQJ53 ♠KJ9 ♦763
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
3 ♣ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—Despite your denial of slam interest, partner has not given up and has made another slam try. You should cooperate since you, too, can do so below four hearts. Bid four diamonds. Look at the combined holdings of 5 ♣ & 6 ♦ — a heart slam is an excellent venture.

Peanuts

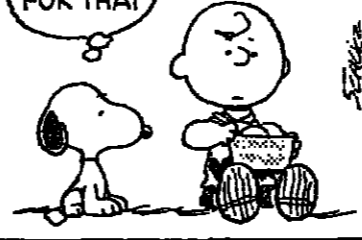
I CAN'T SHARE THIS WITH YOU... THEY SAY ICE CREAM ISN'T GOOD FOR DOGS...



AND IF YOU STARE AT ME LIKE THAT, YOU'RE GOING TO SPOIL IT FOR ME...



I'LL SETTLE FOR THAT

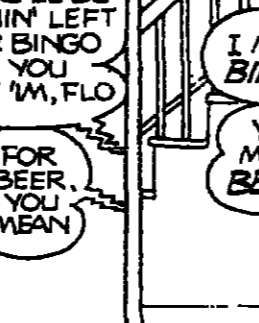


Andy Capp

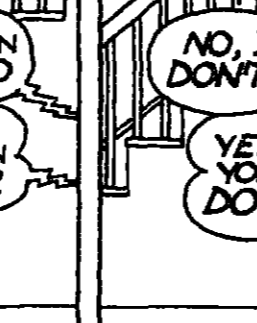
THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT FOR BINGO IF YOU PAY 'IM, FLO



I MEAN BINGO



NO, I DON'T!



IT TAKES A WHILE, THEY'RE ALWAYS MORE INTERESTED ABOUT WHO'S RIGHT THAN WHAT'S RIGHT



Mutt'n'Jeff

OH DEAR, BRIDGE NIGHT!



WONDER IF THE CURLING IRON IS TOO HOT!



Z-Z-Z-Z



IT WAS TOO HOT!



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JULY 17, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day to look over all your assets and liabilities and to think out a more specific plan so you can live the year ahead more in alliance with a spirit of abundance.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get set for the pleasures that mean the most to you and make appointments with congenial companions for reservations at dinner or entertainment.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your own residence is the seat of activity now so even though you are in the world of outside activity make sure that you do think how to improve home conditions.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is the day to get out in the world of action to see and discuss the future with those in the know and to shop and do errands.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You want more money but if you have to have it's essential you think big and not to be concerned with the little details of financial matters.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can be proud and preen and do what brings you more success in getting your hangar to prepare for the kids you like so much for tomorrow.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Behind the scenes, you are able to operate well and to get your own allies to go along with what you want them to do but it must be in confidence.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can join your efforts now with friends and acquaintances who are able to help you get that

cherished wish that has been delayed and means so much to you. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is the time to make sure you have the confidence and good will of those in power by letting them see you are a solid citizen.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever others expect of you is all right so long as you adopt a new standpoint and do not hold on to the same old tired out way of doing things.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Now you are able to find that way to attend to some obligation that has been a pain in the neck with less annoyance than it has caused you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) There are a number of points of controversy you can take up with an associate and in discussions before them you came to a better understanding.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your day to beautify and to improve your surroundings so that they gladden and shine or have more colour and artistic meaning to you and family.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she listens too much to suggestions and directions from those who have their own axes to grind. Setting their own pace and picking their own direction is a must for this chart in order for them to find big success and acceptance in the world community.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"So there! How do YOU like it?!"

JUMBLE.

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

STURB

ESTUG

FRILPE

GEEREM



WHAT THE LAND-LORD'S PROMISES ARE OFTEN NO BETTER THAN.

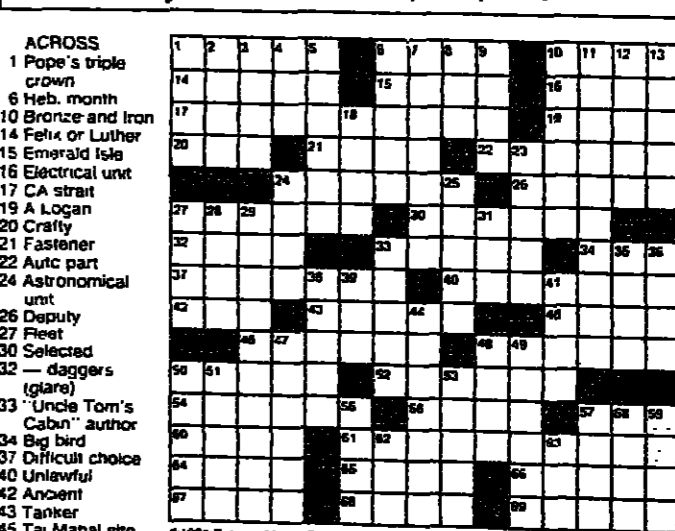
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: HIS

Yesterday's Jumbles: AWOKE RANCH PASTRY TRUSTY

Answer: What he did before he could get the job as spaghetti chef — "PAST-A" TEST

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey L. Chew



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 Pope's triple crown
6 Heb. month
10 Bronze and iron
14 Felix or Luther
15 Emerald Isle
16 Electrical unit
17 CA strat
19 A Logan
20 Crafty
21 Fastener
22 Aut part
30 Selected
32 — daggers (plural)
33 Uncle Tom's Cabin author
34 Big bird
37 Difficult choice
40 Unlabeled
42 Ancient
43 Tanker
45 Tai Mahal site
46 Herds
48 Diminish
50 Shakespearean spirit
52 Try hard
54 Jamaican music
56 Sapphires
57 A leaser
60 Heroic tale
61 Poe story
62 Actor Ray
64 Roman way
65 Memo
66 da gamba
67 Jewellery stone
68 Mimic
69 Gown catcher
DOWN
1 Labels
2 False god
3 Confederate
4 Blushing
5 Stadia
6 Sponsorship
7 Pines
8 Garfunkel
9 Ridge of rocks
10 Get even for
11 Product of fabled goose
12 Author Glasgow
13 Begin
18 Not a one
20 Artist's need
24 Prod
25 Singing group
27 Actor Ray
28 Rander turbid
29 Vamp's kun
31 "Wise" bird
33 Markdownt events
35 Horse
36 — Bator
38 Money
39 1004
41 Comfort
44 Art lover
47 Look upon
48 Luminous
49 Develop
50 Musical beat
51 Vaguer's rope
53 O.K.
55 Volcano in Sicily
57 Ancient Gr. com
58 Hold away
59 Baccarat culture
60 base
62 Distance
63 Sine
65 Indefinite

Financial Markets

in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.6510	1.6472
Deutsche Mark	1.7917	1.7957
Swiss Franc	1.5505	1.5546
French Franc	6.9875	6.9848
Japanese Yen	137.00	136.95
European Currency Unit	1.1465	1.1465

USD Per STD
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT
Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Date: 16/7/1991

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.93	6.06	6.50	6.68
Sterling Pound	10.87	10.87	10.75	10.68
Deutsche Mark	8.75	9.00	9.12	9.18
Swiss Franc	7.61	7.75	7.75	7.62
French Franc	9.37	9.37	9.37	9.43
Japanese Yen	7.40	7.53	7.37	7.25
European Currency Unit	9.56	9.68	9.61	9.87

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.
Precious Metals

Date: 16/7/1991

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	369.25	7.20	Silver	4.38	.10

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 16/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.685	.688
Sterling Pound	1.1304	1.1361
Deutsche Mark	.3621	.3840
Swiss Franc	.4416	.4458
French Franc	.1126	.1132
Japanese Yen	.5013	.5036
Dutch Guilder	.3393	.3410
Swedish Krona	.1056	.1061
Italian Lira	.0513	.0516
Belgian Franc	.01861	.01870

Per 100
Other Currencies

Date: 16/7/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7870	1.7950
Lebanese Lira	.0760	.0790
Saudi Riyal	.1826	.1835
Kuwaiti Dinar		
Qatari Riyal	.1853	.1865
Egyptian Pound	.1850	.2000
Omani Riyal	1.7490	1.7570
UAE Dirham	.1853	.1865
Greek Drachma	.3300	.3600
Cypriot Pound	1.3930	1.4230

Per 100
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	14/7/1991 Close	15/7/1991 Close
AB-Share	110.86	111.09
Banking Sector	106.36	106.65
Insurance Sector	119.29	119.41
Industry Sector	115.19	115.18
Services Sector	125.47	126.83

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6500/10	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1461/66	Canadian dollar
	1.7915/22	Deutschmarks
	2.0185/95	Dutch guilders
	1.5545/52	Swiss francs
	36.88/92	Belgian francs
	6.0820/70	French francs
	1334/1335	Italian lire
	136.90/137.00	Japanese yen
	6.4800/50	Swedish crowns
	6.9820/70	Norwegian crowns
	6.9260/10	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	368.50/369.00	U.S. dollars

Jordanian, Japanese firms to resume talks on new fertilizer plant next week

By P.V.Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Plans to set up an additional fertilizer plant at Aqaba with Japanese participation are expected to be given a final shape in talks here next week with a Japanese delegation representing a consortium of four major trading groups.

"We hope to discuss and finalise all details related to capital and equity and other relevant issues during our talks," said Wasef Azar, director-general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC).

The JPMC and the Arab Potash Company will be Jordanian partners in the joint venture.

Envisaged capital for the project, to be set up at the industrial free zone adjoining the JPMC fertilizer plant at Aqaba, is between \$50 million and \$70 million. Mr. Azar told the Jordan Times.

Although Mr. Azar did not specify any figure or percentage as Japanese participation in the project, industry sources said the four-member consortium's contribution would be 60 per cent of the equity, tentatively set at \$24 million.

The Jordanian share will be in the form of local infrastructure and raw materials in addition to capital financing, which the Kingdom hopes to raise in

the form of soft loans from external sources.

The entire annual output of the plant — estimated at 300,000 tonnes of compound fertilizers — will be exported to Japan.

Mr. Azar expected the plant to employ not less than 100 skilled and semi-skilled personnel.

The Gulf crisis had delayed the project, which was under discussion since 1989 and was expected to be finalised during a visit to Jordan by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in August last year. The visit did not take place until later in the year, and the Gulf crisis preempted any follow-up discussions on the proposal.

Mitsubishi, one of the commercial giants in Japan, is leading the consortium. Names of the other three companies in the group were not immediately available.

The Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Taduki Nonoyama, has said that the Tokyo government is encouraging the Japanese private sector to invest in industrial joint ventures in Jordan under direct arrangements.

Japanese multinationals — all of whom packed up and left Jordan at the height of the Gulf crisis — have returned to the Kingdom and some of them have revived interest in contributing to marketing abroad



Wasef Azar

Jordanian products, including phosphates, potash and derivatives.

The Arab Potash Company is planning a \$100 million expansion project at its plant in the south on the Dead Sea. Ambitious long-term objectives of the company involve a total investment of over \$2.5 billion at the same site to diversify its production to include at least 25 to 30 mineral and chemical extracts from the Dead Sea.

Plans to set up joint phosphate and fertilizer projects worth nearly \$500 million in Jordan with Indian participation appear to have been shelved after the major Indian firm involved in discussions has run into problems at home.

Kodak pays Polaroid \$925 m

NEW YORK (R) — Eastern Kodak Co. paid Polaroid Corp. \$925 million Monday to end a bitter 15-year legal battle over infringing patents on instant cameras and films, both companies said.

The payment and settlement came as a surprise and put to rest a lengthy appeals process in a case that began in 1976 when Kodak entered the instant photography business. Analysts thought the case could have dragged on for another year.

Polaroid, the pioneer in the field, had filed suit to block Kodak's entry into the business, saying the company had infringed Polaroid patents.

A U.S. court ruled in Polaroid's favour in 1985 and Kodak exited the business a year later, but it was not until last year that a judge set damages of just over \$900 million.

Polaroid had sought triple damages. Industry analysts had expected the award to be \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion.

Both sides appealed against the damage award but agreed to drop all pending litigation as part of the settlement.

Big Saudi firm plans \$107 million paper plant

MANAMA (R) — Saudi Arabia's National Industrialisation Company (NIC) said it was planning to set up an affiliate company, to manufacture paper to reduce dependence on imports.

A statement from the Riyadh-based firm said several Saudi investors were meeting Wednesday to decide on their contributions to the 400-million-riyal (\$107 million) venture.

Company sources expected half of the new company's shares would go to founding NIC shareholders and the other half would be offered to the Saudi public.

Several foreign firms were willing to take on the venture, at the Red Sea port of Yanbu, but bids would only be accepted after the National Company for Paper Manufacturing had been formed, the sources said.

Foreign banks benefit Gulf depositors suffer over BCCI

DUBAI (R) — The closure of BCCI holdings' main banking operations by world central banks for alleged fraud is frightening many Gulf depositors into switching funds to foreign-owned banks, bankers said.

Confidence has been upset by confusion over the impact of the BCCI affair on local banking and few comments from the central bank of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), home to the ruling family of Abu Dhabi who are majority owners of BCCI, they said.

"I don't think there is any question that we are seeing money move from local banks. It's what I would expect without a firm statement yet from the central bank," said one UAE-based foreign banker.

No one knows how much money is being affected, although BCCI's UAE-based subsidiary Bank of Credit and Commerce (Emirates) (BCEE) said it lost \$55 million worth of deposits in the four days after two BCCI banks were shut down.

The family of Sheikh Zaid Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, Abu Dhabi ruler and president of the UAE, own 77.4 per cent of Luxembourg-based BCCI with a few other Abu Dhabi institutions and individuals.

The Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday that Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Khalifah Ben Zaid Al Nahayan was the single biggest shareholder with 35.03 per cent. BCCI shareholders could face

claims estimated at anything from \$4 billion to \$15 billion, if BCCI goes under completely. The UAE central bank said it had confidence in BCEE, which is still operating, the day after monetary authorities closed down Bank of Credit and Commerce International S.A. (BCCI) and its Cayman Islands sister BCCI Overseas on July 5.

But it stopped short of saying it would back the bank as the lender of last resort and has declined comment on the issue since then, the bankers said.

Although BCCI has direct shares only in BCEE and Oman-based National Bank of Oman, the issue has raised old fears over the soundness of some locally incorporated banks, the bankers said.

Over half the UAE's 15 local banks have assets well under \$1 billion, a few little more than \$100 million. No Omani bank save National Bank of Oman has assets anywhere near \$1 billion, available balance sheets show.

Local governments have so far preferred to protect the smaller banks but "some are not big enough to face the kind of (financial) instability from) political crises we get in this region," said a UAE bank manager.

BCEE is one of the biggest UAE banks with \$1.57 billion of assets as of Dec. 31. Depositors say that BCEE and some other affected banks have been refusing to let customers break into time deposits before maturity.

Poles dismantle imported cars to avoid high duties

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Resourceful entrepreneurs in Poland's booming used car business have come up with a new way to increase their profit margin: Importing the cars in pieces.

At one crossing on the Polish-German border, 21 of the 78 vehicles imported on July 1 were dismantled, and the proportion was about the same the next day, the Polish PAP news agency reported.

Car parts, including those from dismantled used cars, are subject to an import duty of 3.5 per cent, compared with 10 per cent duty on cars less than four years old, or a minimum of \$800, and 40 per cent, or a minimum of \$1,300, for older vehicles, PAP said.

Customs officers have called for ban on importing corroded vehicle bodies more than 10 years old as the easiest way to close the regulatory loophole, the agency said.

Y.W.C.A. — Amman

Aerobics & Callanetics

Mrs. Maria Cyrille Lopel will be giving courses during the mornings covering Aerobics and Callanetics.

For further information kindly call the Y.W.C.A. tel. nos. 641793 or 655475.

Furnished Villa For Rent

Um Utheina area. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Fully equipped kitchen. Maid room & bath, garage, small garden, central heating... etc. INTERESTED!!

Call: 621807 (9:00-12:30) 690342 (2:30-6:00)

VILLA FOR RENT

Good location in Shmeisani. Complete privacy. One storey building, area 320 m² (3440 ft²). Wall to wall carpets, built-in closets, wall paper, central heating, telephone, parking and garden.

Furnishing possible and negotiable. Interested expatriates pls call landlord at 09-911211 ext. 2885 Zarqa between 5 and 9 p.m.

FOR RENT

Deluxe furnished apartment. First floor, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, central heating and telephone. Location: Um Utheina, between 4th and 5th Circles. Pls call (817217 or 841838)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) invites packing, handling and shipping transportation of staff household effects, office furniture and equipment and computer-equipment and accessories from Baghdad, Iraq to Amman, Jordan, to contact the General Services Section, Room 135, Plaza Hotel, tel. 674111, not later than 12:00 noon, Wednesday 24 July, 1991. Copies of the tender can be obtained from the General Services Section between 10:00 and 14:00 hours on Sunday, 24 July 1991.

Deluxe Furnished Ground Floor Villa For Rent

Comprises three bedrooms, office-room with separate entrance, spacious salon and dining area, with access to own terrace, fully equipped kitchen (washing machine, dishwasher), 2 bedrooms, own central heating, intercom, telephone and garden. Location: Al Mansour District-University of Jordan Professors' Housing) behind the University. Pls call 845456, 846457

TO LET

To let preferably to an international or to a diplomatic organisation. A building situated in Amman Tlaa' Al Ali. One of the most attractive residential areas near Al-Yubeil roundabout.

The building is of super luxury standard. For more information contact: Tel (02) 241629 or (02) 241020 from 8:00 hrs to 13:00 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Antiquities announces that because of Jerash Festival 91, the sound and light programme at the old city will be stopped as of July 17 until Aug. 3.

CLEANING SERVICE

JD 12 for cleaning a set of sofas
300 fils per metre, for cleaning wall-to-wall carpets
Al Amal Est.
Tel: 751363
Just call us. Our staff is ready to help.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Deluxe furnished apartment: 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 fantastic verandas, modern kitchen, L-salon, colour TV, telephone, central heating & intercom. Location: Jabal Amman in a quiet residential & safe area, 3rd Circle. Also one small apartment: 2 small furnished bedrooms available with veranda. N.B.: No water problem. Call tel.: 641345, from 8-10 a.m. 3-8 p.m. Friday all day.

UNBEATABLE OFFER

Stay at The Al Cazar Hotel for 3 nights but only pay for 2 nights. Scuba experience free of charge. Contact us for more details. Tel: 03 314131/2, Fax: 03 314133, Tlx: 62242

FURNISHED ROOF APARTMENT FOR RENT

Consists of 3 bedrooms and salon, with central heating and telephone. Fourth floor, with lift and separate boiler. Location: Abdullah Ghosheh Street, Al Khair Building, opposite Al Jeel Club, near Royal Automobile Club entrance (drivers' training). Please contact tel. 823420 from 3-8 p.m. Thursday 18/7/91.

Cinema

Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Think Big

Show: 5:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Ninja Turtles

Show: 3:30, 6:45 p.m.

Cinema

Tel: 675571

NIJOM

The theatre and movies house are closed because of decoration works.

Cinema

Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

PRETTY WOMAN

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema

Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

REVENGE

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

